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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

FMC AMONG THE FIRST TO IMPLANT ADVANCED PACEMAKER

Proprietary feature helps physicians regulate a patient's heart rate in response to activity and emotional stress

LANCASTER, Ohio (December 9, 2008) – Fairfield Medical Center was among the first in the nation to implant an ALTRUA™ pacemaker. This advanced device, manufactured by Boston Scientific, is used to treat bradycardia, a condition in which the heart beats too slowly -- usually less than 60 beats per minute -- depriving the body of sufficient oxygen.

Fairfield Medical Center is among the first to bring this revolutionary technology to Lancaster and surrounding communities. Dr. Charles Noble, Fairfield Medical Center Cardiologist, implanted the device on August 15, 2008, he commented, "In this era of remote monitoring, these devices help us to recognize problems earlier and are also easier for patient management. The battery life is more predictable and designed to last longer."

The ALTRUA pacemaker provides physicians with diagnostic and therapeutic capabilities that enable them to tailor the therapy to meet specific patient requirements:

- **Multiple Atrial Ventricular (AV) Delay programming options:** These options are designed to reduce unnecessary right ventricular (RV) pacing, without dropping ventricular beats, a key distinction from other competitive RV pacing algorithms. The ALTRUA 60 series also includes an enhanced AV search hysteresis feature, now with an extendable AV delay out to 400 milliseconds, providing physicians with additional flexibility to tailor device programming for unique patient needs.
- **Stored Onset Electrograms (EGM):** This feature provides diagnostic information about the patient's heart rhythm before the onset of arrhythmias, which enables physicians to more easily and effectively troubleshoot patient arrhythmias. Boston Scientific's proprietary design enables continuous onset EGM monitoring without reducing battery longevity, a key distinction from most competitive pacemakers.
- **Minute Ventilation (MV) Blended Sensor:** This proprietary technology treats a condition called Chronotropic Incompetence (CI), which is the inability of the heart to regulate its rate appropriately in response to activity and emotional stress. Boston Scientific's MV Blended Sensor is the only sensor that has been shown to restore Chronotropic Competence, enabling a patient's heart rate to function appropriately in different situations such as carrying groceries or climbing stairs. This feature is only available in the ALTRUA 60 and 40 series.

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