

For Immediate Release
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**Health Industry Group Purchasing Association Announces
Rand Ballard as New Chair**



WASHINGTON, DC (February 5, 2009) — Rand Ballard has assumed the role of Chair of the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association. Ballard brings to this position years of experience in the health care supply chain as well as his passion for giving back to the industry.

Ballard is currently Senior Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Customer Officer of MedAssets, Inc. In this role, he is responsible for leadership cultivation, customer development, and accountability for various functions within MedAssets' supply chain management and revenue cycle management divisions. Prior to joining MedAssets, Ballard was with Cardinal Healthcare where he was accountable for implementing contracts with subsequent annual sales of \$1.6 billion.

Additionally, Ballard is Vice President of Health Careers Foundation, a non-profit organization addressing the employment needs of our returning veterans under the Hire Heroes USA program. He is the immediate-past Chairman of the Board of the Meals on Wheels Association of America Foundation.

“Rand Ballard is one of the most well-known figures in the health care supply chain. His familiarity with the industry and the issues affecting it will be invaluable to helping HIGPA continue to advocate on behalf of our members,” said Mr. Curtis Rooney, President of HIGPA and HISCI.

Ballard holds an MBA from Pacific Lutheran University with a triple major in finance, operations, and marketing. He was a Dean's List undergraduate at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and holds a bachelor's degree with concentrations in nuclear physics, nuclear engineering, and business law.

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About HIGPA

The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 16 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HIGPA's mission is to advocate on behalf of health care group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs. For more information, visit www.higpa.org .