

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charles Warren  
Marketing Manager  
Atreo Group  
Phone: 303.327.8187  
Cell: 720.442.5388  
Email: [cwarren@atreogroup.com](mailto:cwarren@atreogroup.com)

SANFORD STREAMLINING WASTE AND SOILED LINEN LOGISTICS IN NEW MEDICAL CENTER

*New Hospital Installed Automated System that Increases Efficiency and Reduces Exposure to Potentially Infectious Materials*

Denver, Colo. (August 7, 2017) – Sanford Health, as part of a new state-of-the-art \$494 million medical center that recently opened in Fargo, N.D., has deployed an automated system for rapidly collecting and transporting waste, recycling and soiled linen that is more efficient than conventional methods, and that dramatically reduces patient, visitor and staff exposure to dirty materials in the new facility. The new hospital officially opened to the public July 25.

The system, designed and built by Denver-based TransVac Solutions, handles the movement of dirty linen, recycling and waste from the hospital's 11 patient floors across the one-million-square-foot, 284-bed facility with space for an additional 92 beds shelled in to allow for future growth. Each patient floor has a controlled-access room that contains a loading station for trash/recycling and another for soiled linen. Authorized staff load material into these stations, then activate the computer-monitored pneumatic/vacuum controls that whisks it through a 16-inch sealed pipe network to a central collection point located near the hospital's loading dock.

“Our goal is to provide patients the highest quality environment for healing, and a clean and pleasant environment for staff, family and visitors,” says Sanford Health's Facilities Manager Brian Windingland. “The automated waste, recycling and soiled linen system will help achieve this goal by rapidly moving trash and linen from patient floors to the back of the house. It's more efficient than manually transporting dirty materials, and it reduces exposure to potentially infectious materials significantly.”

The TransVac system replaces traditional manual methods that rely on the use of carts, elevators, holding rooms and chutes to collect and remove trash and soiled linen.

Recent scientific research suggests that soiled linen particulate concentrations are particularly high in soiled holding rooms and at the bottom of gravity chutes.

These particulates, which can carry bacteria when airborne, pose an infection risk when staff come into contact with contaminated surfaces and air. Staff can run the risk of transporting pathogens throughout the hospital.

“Preventing healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs) are a vital component of every hospital’s quality of care and infection control efforts,” says Atreo Group President Harry Pliskin. “The TransVac system helps hospitals to meet public expectations and organizational goals in this area, improving efficiency, reducing costs and raising performance while using fewer resources. In this respect, we are excited to partner with Sanford Health as they open their new state-of-the-art facility for the people of Fargo and surrounding communities.”

### **About Sanford Health**

Sanford Health is an integrated health system headquartered in the Dakotas. It is one of the largest health systems in the nation with 45 hospitals and nearly 300 clinics in nine states and four countries. Sanford Health’s 28,000 employees, including more than 1,300 physicians, make it the largest employer in the Dakotas. Nearly \$1 billion in gifts from philanthropist Denny Sanford have allowed for several initiatives, including global children's clinics, genomic medicine and specialized centers researching cures for type 1 diabetes, breast cancer and other diseases. For more information, visit [sanfordhealth.org](http://sanfordhealth.org).

### **About Atreo Group**

Atreo Group integrates three companies focused in the healthcare material transport market. **TransVac Solutions** ([www.transvacolutions.com](http://www.transvacolutions.com)), established in 1971, is a leading provider of automated waste, recycling and soiled linen collection and transport systems for hospitals. **Aerocom Healthcare, LLC** ([www.aerocomhealthcare.com](http://www.aerocomhealthcare.com)) provides pneumatic tube systems for new hospitals, expansions or conversions of existing systems in the U.S. and Canada. Aerocom is a global company with systems in 1,800 hospitals in 80 countries. **Atreo Services** ([www.atreoservices.com](http://www.atreoservices.com)) provides on-demand and preventive maintenance programs, spare parts and training for hospital pneumatic transport systems. Visit [atreogroup.com](http://atreogroup.com) to learn more.

###