



Rotech Healthcare:

Janet Ziomek
Chief Financial Officer
407-822-4600

Investor Contact:

John Nesbett/Karen Pisciotta
Lippert/Heilshorn & Associates
212-838-3777
jnesbett@lhai.com/kpisciotta@lhai.com

Media Contact:

Tony Herrling
Burson-Marsteller
212-614-5216
anthony_herrling@nyc.bm.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Rotech Healthcare Appoints Philip L. Carter
President and Chief Executive Officer**

ORLANDO, Fla. – Nov. 7, 2002 – Rotech Healthcare Inc. today announced the appointment of Philip L. Carter as chief executive officer and president of the company and as a member of the Rotech Healthcare's board of directors effective December 9, 2002. Mr. Carter, age 54, replaces Guy Sansone, who has served as interim president and co-chief executive officer since August. Wallace Abbott, who remains chairman of the company's board of directors, will also step down as co-chief executive officer.

Mr. Carter previously served as chief executive officer of Apria Healthcare Group, Inc. from 1998 to 2002. While at Apria, one of the nation's leading homecare companies, Mr. Carter developed and executed a highly successful operational and financial turnaround resulting in the company's market capitalization growing from approximately \$200 million to approximately \$1.4 billion.

From 1995-1998, Mr. Carter served as president and chief executive officer of MacFrugal's Bargains-Closeouts, a Los Angeles based retail company. While at MacFrugal's, Mr. Carter developed and implemented a comprehensive marketing, operating and financial strategy, which resulted in significant gains in shareholder value.

"We are extremely pleased to welcome Phil to Rotech Healthcare," said Guy Sansone, president and co-chief executive officer of Rotech. "Phil brings tremendous leadership, together with industry and financial experience to our organization.

"Phil's proven track record has been exemplary. During his tenure at Apria, the company substantially increased sales, reduced debt and returned to profitability. We believe Mr. Carter's industry experience, financial discipline and strategic insight will be an enormous asset to Rotech," added Wallace Abbott, chairman and co-chief executive officer of Rotech.

About Rotech Healthcare

Rotech Healthcare Inc. is a leading provider of home respiratory care and durable medical equipment and services to patients with breathing disorders such as chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD). The Company provides its equipment and services in 48 states through over 600 operating centers, located principally in non-urban markets. Rotech's local operating centers ensure that patients receive individualized care, while its nationwide coverage allows the Company to benefit from significant operating efficiencies. In 2001 the Company had revenues in excess of \$600 million.

#