



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contacts:

Kerry Brunner, Manager, Compensation and Benefits, Aspirus
(715)847-2447

Joseph Topp, Vice President, Francis Investment Counsel, LLC
(262)367-8401

Aspirus, Inc. engages Francis Investment Counsel LLC

Hartland, WI, November 23, 2004. Aspirus, Inc., of Wausau, WI, has engaged Francis Investment Counsel LLC to conduct a vendor search to seek a single source provider to consolidate its multiple retirement benefit plans with assets in excess of \$100 million onto one recordkeeping platform.

Aspirus, Inc. (www.aspirus.org) is a health care system best known for such entities as Aspirus Wausau Hospital, the UW Cancer Center, Aspirus Clinics and the Wausau Heart Institute. Aspirus's 3,400 employees deliver a full range of health services throughout central and northern Wisconsin.

Francis Investment Counsel LLC (www.francisinvco.com) is a Registered Investment Advisor dedicated to providing independent investment consulting services to the qualified plan marketplace. Francis Investment Counsel currently consults to qualified plans representing assets exceeding \$1 billion. The company delivers conflict-free investment advisory services to plan sponsors and also offers extensive education and individualized advice services to plan participants.

###