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### **Respironics' C-Flex Provides Sleep Apnea Sufferers More Comfortable Therapy Rave Reviews from Homecare Providers, Sleep Labs and Patients**

**Murrysville, Pa, May 19, 2003-** The new C-Flex from Respironics, available on the company's REMstar® Pro, provides obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) sufferers with a more comfortable treatment for sleep apnea versus traditional CPAP. C-Flex is a patented, revolutionary breakthrough in the treatment of OSA that is being embraced by patients, clinicians, and homecare providers alike.

“One of the primary obstacles to OSA patients adhering to therapy is that they often find it difficult to exhale against the positive airway pressure of the CPAP machine. This can result in frequent awakenings during the night or inadvertent mask removal, which hinders the patient from receiving the full benefit of CPAP therapy. C-Flex offers an unprecedented way to provide positive pressure for sleep therapy by taking some of the work out of exhalation, thus providing more comfortable treatment,” said Jay Vreeland, Product Manager, Sleep Therapy, Respironics.

In a recent study of 60 CPAP users, a remarkable 98 percent said C-Flex was comfortable. In a second study, 90 percent of patients indicated that C-Flex was a very comfortable method of treatment and that they would choose the device with C-Flex over conventional CPAP.

Patients like Mark Sampson who was diagnosed with OSA four years ago, consistently report that they sleep for longer periods of time between periods of awakening with C-Flex. They also report feeling more rested and alert during the day as opposed to when they were using traditional CPAP therapy.

“Truly it’s an amazing difference, really incomparable,” said Sampson. “In addition to extremely quiet operation, which is a benefit to my wife, I wake up really feeling refreshed and feel more fully rested throughout the day. It’s a remarkable technology that has greatly improved how I feel each and every day.”

A major issue for sleep clinicians is that patients comply, or stay on the therapy, to help alleviate the general tiredness and sleepiness most associated with sleep apnea as well as the other potentially more serious health problems linked to untreated OSA such as hypertension and congestive heart failure.

“Compliance levels have increased both from patients who were using standard CPAP therapy and switched to C-Flex as well as newly diagnosed patients who’ve been placed right on C-Flex. We’re so pleased with the compliance results from C-Flex that all newly diagnosed patients are being placed on this therapy,” said Carol O’Korn, Lead Sleep Technologist, The Washington Hospital, Washington, PA. “We believe C-Flex will help us reach our goal of six hours compliance per night of usage.”

Results such as these are also being reported by homecare providers who set-up the patient on therapy based on the sleep labs’ prescription.

“The results we have seen to date of patients using REMstar Pro with C-flex are phenomenal,” said Troy Burke, Quality Assurance Manager, Hutchinson Medical of New Hampshire. “We have seen a compliance rate of 87 percent among our patients using C-Flex versus a compliance rate of 70 percent among those patients using traditional CPAP therapy. This encompasses both patients who had been using CPAP in the past as well as newly diagnosed OSA patients, and in general, these patients report better results from using the C-Flex.”

Burke also noted that the greater comfort and ease of use of C-Flex, coupled with higher compliance rates, means patients can better manage their therapy, potentially lessening the number of homecare provider visits especially in the early stages of treatment.

Respironics, the global resource in the respiratory medical device industry, provides innovative and unique programs to health care providers while helping them to grow and manage their business efficiently and to clinicians seeking the best products and services to enhance the quality of patient care. The company's focus is on home care, hospital and international markets, providing programs that manage sleep-disordered breathing, chronic respiratory diseases, asthma, allergies and sinusitis, infant jaundice and apnea, heart failure and restrictive lung disorders. Globally positioned, the company employs more than 2,500 individuals worldwide and has manufacturing facilities in several domestic and international locations. Further information on Respironics can be found on its Web site: [www.respironics.com](http://www.respironics.com).

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