



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 28, 2010

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**PITTSBURGH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM WINS TOP LEADERSHIP AWARD  
FROM VENTANA RESEARCH**

**PITTSBURGH (December 28, 2010)** -- [Pittsburgh Mercy Health System](http://www.pittsburghmercy.org) received the top Ventana Research 2010 Leadership Award for Business Analytics and Performance Management. The award recognizes Pittsburgh Mercy Health System and partner Alight LLC, developers of the industry-leading Alight Planning performance management software, for its accomplishments in moving from spreadsheets to a dedicated planning and reporting application for two hundred and fifty revenue and cost centers.

The [Ventana Research Leadership Awards](http://www.ventanaresearch.com) identify individuals and organizations that have contributed to advancing the use of information and technology to improve people and processes. They identify "Leaders" who have contributed to their organizations' successes and to the technology firms who provide the underlying information systems.

In describing the Leadership Award for Pittsburgh Mercy and its technology provider Alight LLC, Mark Smith, chief executive officer for Ventana Research, focused on the specific best practices developed by the Pittsburgh Mercy finance team in implementing Alight Planning for doing rolling forecasts. "Best practices," said Smith, "include business planning that can operate collaboratively and as the business operates for reviewing results and updating forecasts and incorporating a unit, rate and amount analytic structure for understanding business drivers and performance impacts."

"The Pittsburgh Mercy finance team has done a remarkable job taking an extremely complex set of reporting and forecasting requirements and distilling them to the essentials needed for effective collaboration at all levels of management," said Don Koenes, vice president of services for Alight. "In particular, the quarterly forecast update process, which involves team meetings of managers across like functional areas, has been particularly effective in identifying revenue opportunities and cost reductions through the real time sharing of best practices between clinics."

"Alight has enabled us to implement a totally new culture for planning and analysis here at Pittsburgh Mercy Health System," said Ray Wolfe, chief financial officer for Pittsburgh Mercy Health System. "To date we've documented over \$450,000 in concrete savings and improvements which we are able to return back to our mental health clients in the form of better products and services."

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## **PITTSBURGH MERCY HEALTH SYSTEM WINS TOP LEADERSHIP AWARD**

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### **About Pittsburgh Mercy Health System**

*Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS) is an extension of the Catholic health care ministry to all people in southwestern Pennsylvania. A member of Catholic Health East and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, PMHS focuses on providing quality services that meet physical, mental and spiritual needs. Pittsburgh Mercy Health System includes Mercy Behavioral Health, Mercy Mental Retardation Services, A Child's Place at Mercy, Mercy Parish Nurse and Health Ministry Program, Operation Safety Net<sup>®</sup>, and McAuley Ministries. To learn more about Pittsburgh Mercy Health System or to make a donation in support of its important work in the community, visit [www.pmhs.org](http://www.pmhs.org).*

### **About Ventana Research**

*[Ventana Research](http://www.ventanaresearch.com) is the leading benchmark research and advisory services firm. We provide expert guidance to help organizations manage and optimize performance - to become not only more efficient but more effective. Our unparalleled insights and best practices guidance are based on our rigorous research-based benchmarking indexes of people, processes, information and technology across business and IT functions worldwide. The combination we offer of benchmark research, rigorous market coverage and in-depth knowledge of hundreds of technology providers means we can deliver business and technology education and expertise to our clients where and when needed. The Ventana Research Indexes - the Value Index and the Benchmark Index family - have redefined the research industry by providing accessible, easy-to-use research-based business and technology guidance to businesses.*

### **About Alight LLC**

*Alight LLC's Alight Planning is a true driver-based financial planning and reporting software package that automates complex business modeling for more accurate strategic plans, revenue projections, budgets and rolling forecasts. Its unique architectures and easy-to-use interfaces provide finance staff the power they need to build complex driver-based planning models, while delivering traditional budgeting and planning structures such as line item detail, integrated financial statements and multiple-user security. Cost-effective and IT-independent, Alight Planning is affordable and easily deployed by Fortune 500 business units, as well as midmarket companies with limited IT resources. For more information about Alight Planning, visit [www.AlightPlanning.com](http://www.AlightPlanning.com) or call 800-960-7717.*

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