

## Press Release



### Cario acquires Scandinavian Heart Center

**Cario is acquiring Scandinavian Heart Center in Gothenburg. Scandinavian Heart Center focuses on cardiovascular surgery and performs slightly more than 550 operations each year. The company has a 6% share of the Swedish market. Scandinavian Heart Center's competence in the highly specialised area of cardiovascular surgery will constitute a solid base for a new leading-edge area of business within Cario Healthcare Nordic.**

Cario will formally acquire Scandinavian Heart Center SHC AB in Gothenburg as per September 1, 2002. The company has annual sales of approx. SEK 65 M and a care-services contract with the Västra Götaland region to carry out 550 cardiovascular operations per year. The care-services contract with the region extends to mid-year 2006, with an option for extension.

"The acquisition of Scandinavian Heart Center is fully in line with our strategy to develop cardiovascular care as a leading-edge area of expertise within Cario. The company's high competence in the cardiovascular surgery area will make a strong contribution to the Healthcare Nordic business area. Today, Cario is active in cardiovascular surgery in the UK. Furthermore, preparations are in progress at St. Göran's Hospital in Stockholm to commence so-called balloon angioplasty," says Ann-Sofi Lodin, Deputy Head of Cario Healthcare Nordic business area.

Heart-related problems are relatively common today and in Sweden approximately one fifth of all patients seeking emergency medical care show symptoms of cardiovascular disease. This means that there is substantial demand for various types of cardiovascular treatment. Approximately 10,000 cardiovascular operations are carried out per year in Sweden.

*Scandinavian Heart Center commenced operations in 1985 and has been wholly owned by Gambro AB since 1994. Activities focus primarily on by-pass operations, cardiac valve surgery and operations to correct congenital heart disorders. The majority of the staff of 70 people is nurses with specialist training.*

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**Cario AB (publ)**

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