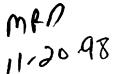
FORM PTO-1618A Expires 06/30/99 OMB 0651-0027 11-27-1998

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TO: The Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks: Please record the attached original document(s) or copy(ies). Convéyance Type Submission Type License **Assignment** X New Resubmission (Non-Recordation) Security Agreement **Nunc Pro Tunc Assignment** Document ID # **Effective Date** Month Day Year 02041998 X Merger **Correction of PTO Error** Frame # Reel # Change of Name **Corrective Document** Reel # Frame # Other Conveying Party Mark if additional names of conveying parties attached **Execution Date** Month Day Year Name Principal Hospital Company 02021998 Formerly Individual General Partnership **Limited Partnership** Corporation Association Other Citizenship/State of Incorporation/Organization Oregon **Receiving Party** Mark if additional names of receiving parties attached Province Healthcare Company **DBA/AKA/TA** Composed of 105 Westwood Drive, Suite 400 Address (line 1) Address (line 2) Address (line 3) Tennessee State/Country Brentwood Zip Code If document to be recorded is an **Limited Partnership** Individual General Partnership assignment and the receiving party is not domiciled in the United States, an Corporation Association appointment of a domestic representative should be attached. (Designation must be a separate Other document from Assignment.) Citizenship/State of Incorporation/Organization Delaware

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Mary E.	Zaug V Mary	7. Saug/	November 11, 1998
Name	e of Person Signing	Signature	Date Signed

State of Delaware

Office of the Secretary of State PAGE 1

I, EDWARD J. FREEL, SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF MERGER, WHICH MERGES:

"PRINCIPAL HOSPITAL COMPANY", A OREGON CORPORATION,

WITH AND INTO "PROVINCE HEALTHCARE COMPANY" UNDER THE NAME
OF "PROVINCE HEALTHCARE COMPANY", A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND
EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE, AS RECEIVED
AND FILED IN THIS OFFICE THE FOURTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, A.D. 1998,
AT 9 O'CLOCK A.M.



Edward J. Freel, Secretary of State

2781088 8100M

981430202

AUTHENTICATION:

9395347

DATE:

11-09-98

STATE OF DELAWARE SECRETARY OF STATE DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS FILED 09:00 AM 02/04/1998 981044761 - 2781088

CERTIFICATE OF MERGER

OF

PRINCIPAL HOSPITAL COMPANY (an Oregon corporation)

WITH AND INTO

PROVINCE HEALTHCARE COMPANY (a Delaware corporation)

It is hereby certified that:

FIRST: The name and state of incorporation of each constituent business corporation participating in the merger herein is as follows:

Name State of Incorporation

Province Healthcare Company Principal Hospital Company

Delaware

pany Oregon

SECOND: An Amended and Restated Agreement and Plan of Merger has been approved, adopted, certified, executed and acknowledged by each of the aforesaid constituent corporations in accordance with the provisions of subsection (c) of Section 252 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, to wit, by Principal Hospital Company in accordance with the laws of the state of its incorporation, and by Province Healthcare Company in the same manner as is provided in Section 251 of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

THIRD: The name of the surviving corporation in the merger herein certified is Province Healthcare Company, which will continue its existence as said surviving corporation under its present name upon the effective date of said merger pursuant to the provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

FOURTH: The Certificate of Incorporation of Province Healthcare Company as now in force and effect, shall continue to be the Certificate of Incorporation of said surviving corporation until amended and changed in accordance with the provisions of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware.

FIFTH: The executed Amended and Restated Agreement and Plan of Merger between the aforesaid constituent corporations is on file at the principal place of business of the aforesaid surviving corporation, the address of which is as follows:

Province Healthcare Company 109 Westpark Drive, Suite 180 Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

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SIXTH: A copy of the aforesaid Amended and Restated Agreement and Plan of Merger will be furnished by the aforesaid surviving corporation, upon request and without cost, to any stockholder of each of the aforesaid constituent corporations.

SEVENTH: The authorized capital stock of Province Healthcare Company consists of 25,000,000 shares of Common Stock, \$0.01 par value per share; 25,000 shares of Series A Senior Preferred Stock, no par value; 50,000 shares of Series B Junior Preferred Stock, no par value; and 100,000 shares of Preferred Stock, par value \$.01 per share. The authorized capital stock of Principal Hospital Company consists of 20,000,000 shares of Common Stock, no par value; 25,000 shares of Series A Senior Preferred Stock, no par value; and 50,000 shares of Series B Junior Preferred Stock, no par value.

EIGHTH: The merger herein certified shall be effective upon filing of this Certificate of Merger with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, for the purpose of effectuating the merger of the aforesaid constituent corporations, pursuant to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, under penalties of perjury do hereby declare and certify that this is the act and deed of the corporation and the facts stated herein are true and accordingly have heretinto signed this Certificate of Merger as of the 2nd day of February, 1998.

a Delaware corporation
By: /s/ Martin S. Rash Its: President
PRINCIPAL HOSPITAL COMPANY, an Oregon corporation
By: /s/ Martin S. Rash Its: President

PROVINCE HEALTHCARE COMPANY.

MÉRGCERT.LGA

RECORDED: 11/20/1998

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