

## Medtronic Initiates U.S. Launch of Fortrex(TM) PTA Balloon

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*The Fortrex PTA Balloon Provides High Pressure Solution to Maintain Arteriovenous Access*

**DUBLIN -- June 10, 2015 --** Medtronic plc (NYSE: MDT) announced today the launch of the Fortrex(TM) over-the-wire (OTW) percutaneous transluminal angioplasty (PTA) balloon catheter. The Fortrex PTA balloon catheter utilizes a high pressure balloon to break up the blockages and open the vessels to help maintain arteriovenous (AV) access in the peripheral vascular system.

"Being able to maintain AV access for patients receiving hemodialysis for renal disease and kidney failure is critical as it is a patient's lifeline," said Dr. Brian L. Dunfee, interventional radiologist, Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Fla. "In the past, other high pressure balloons could lose their shape, making it challenging to focus the pressure on the lesion that was blocking the AV access. The Fortrex PTA balloon's rated burst pressure provides me with a predictable and efficient solution to crack the short, fibrous lesions to restore AV access."

The Fortrex PTA balloon can be used to maintain AV access in patients receiving hemodialysis for chronic kidney disease or end stage renal failure. In some cases, patients receiving hemodialysis will develop plaque blockages at the dialysis site, which can limit access. The Fortrex balloon's material and design permit shape retention at rated burst pressure, ensuring focused pressure on the lesion for controlled, targeted and predictable treatment.

Additionally, the balloon has been engineered with a low tip entry profile and robust, flexible shaft to enable tight tracking to the wire and successful navigation in tortuous vessels. The balloon material and wall thickness enables reliable balloon rewrap and reinsertion. This, combined with its rapid deflation time, improves efficiency of the procedure.

"Medtronic's growing PTA portfolio includes trusted, lesion specific solutions for peripheral vascular disease," said Brian Verrier, vice president and general manager of Peripheral Vascular, a business in Medtronic's Aortic and Peripheral Vascular division. "We are excited to bring to market the Fortrex PTA balloon, which enhances our portfolio to provide clinicians with an innovative solution to improve AV access."

In collaboration with leading clinicians, researchers and scientists, Medtronic offers the broadest range of innovative medical technology for the interventional and surgical treatment of cardiovascular diseases and cardiac arrhythmias. The company strives to offer products and services that deliver clinical and economic value to healthcare consumers and providers worldwide.

### **ABOUT MEDTRONIC**

Medtronic plc ([www.medtronic.com](http://www.medtronic.com)), headquartered in Dublin, Ireland, is the global leader in medical technology -- alleviating pain, restoring health and extending life for millions of people around the world.

**Any forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties such as those described in Medtronic's periodic reports on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Actual results may differ materially from anticipated results.**

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### Contacts:

Krystin Hayward

**Public Relations**  
**+1-508-261-6512**

**Jeff Warren**  
**Investor Relations**  
**+1-763-505-2696**

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