



For Immediate Release

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Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) Endorses GS1 Standards, Supports Industry Timeline Implementation

Washington, D.C. (May 7, 2009) – Curtis Rooney, President of the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), today announced its endorsement of the GS1 Industry Timeline Implementation dates for standards adoption throughout the health care supply chain. HIGPA supports the GS1 Global Supply Chain Standards in health care including its Global Trade Item Number (GTIN), Global Location Number (GLN) and the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN).

“We’re taking this leadership position now because it is time to implement GS1 Global Supply Chain Standards in health care if we hope to reduce the overall cost of health care, significantly increase supply chain efficiency and improve patient safety,” said Mr. Rooney. “GPOs stand ready to help their hospitals and supplier partners make health care better today!”

Proposed Timeline of Implementation

HIGPA supports the industry timeline below for standards adoption:

2009 – Request that providers and suppliers recognize GLNs and suppliers begin to register GTINs for their products

2010 – December 31, 2010; require all providers and suppliers to recognize and use of GLN

2011 – Continue to enforce the use of the GLN

2012 – December 31, 2012; require GTIN for all products from the suppliers and providers

Endorsing Group Purchasing Organizations

Amerinet, Inc.	HealthTrust Purchasing Group	Novation
Broadlane	HPS	PRIME
Child Health Corporation of America	Innovatix	Provista
Consorta, Inc.	MAGNET, Co-Op.	Premier, Inc.
GNVHA Services, Inc.	MedAssets Supply Chain Systems	United Pharmacy Partners (UPPI, LLC)

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The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 16 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HIGPA’s mission is to advocate on behalf of health care group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs. For more information, visit www.higpa.org.