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For Immediate Release

Health Care Cost Curve Bends Once Supply Chain Community Achieves Implementation of GS1 Standards; MMIS Vendors on Track

Washington, D.C. (October 19, 2009) – Washington, D.C. - Curtis Rooney, President of the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), on behalf of the Committee for Healthcare eStandards (CHeS), GS1 US, and the Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM) today announced results of a new survey of Material Management Information System (MMIS) companies. The survey demonstrates a critical link in the health care supply chain appears NEARLY ready to comply with the Timeline for Implementation of GS1 Standards; however, much effort remains within the entire supply chain community to accelerate and meet the published timeline for GS1 Standards.

The survey probes the MMIS industries readiness for use, delivery, and compliance with GS1 Standards to their users and customers. The survey results will allow the sponsoring organizations to understand and gauge current and planned MMIS capabilities relative to GS1 Standards and will be used for internal planning purposes to develop educational and support activities to encourage more rapid adoption and share best practices.

“The alignment and support of MMIS vendors is a key factor in ensuring the implementation of the GS1 Standards across the healthcare sector by the healthcare supply chain industry” said Mr. Rooney. “These MMIS readiness and commitment survey results help continue the industry goal to implement GS1 Global Supply Chain Standards to reduce the overall cost of health care, significantly increase supply chain efficiency and improve patient safety. Recent studies suggest that implementation of GS1 Standards will bend the cost curve of health care by approximately \$16 billion.”

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About HIGPA

The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 17 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.

About AHRMM

The Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management is the leading national association for executives in the healthcare resource and materials management profession. A professional membership group of the American Hospital Association, AHRMM serves more than 4,000 active members. Founded in 1962, AHRMM prepares its members to contribute to the field and advance the profession through networking, education, recognition, and advocacy. For more information, visit www.ahrmm.org.