



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 19, 2012

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## **HSCA APPLAUDS GPhA FOR MOVING FORWARD ON THE ACCELERATED RECOVERY INITIATIVE TO COMBAT DRUG SHORTAGES**

*GPhA Names IMS Health as Independent Third Party to Help Analyze Gaps in Drug Supply Chain*

**Washington, DC (April 19, 2012)** – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) today applauded the Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) for naming IMS Health, a leading provider of information, services and technology for the healthcare industry, as a key part of the Accelerated Recovery Initiative (ARI) to combat drug shortages. The ARI is a multi-stakeholder effort that would bring together manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) to help combat the critical drug shortage problem. IMS Health has been selected by GPhA to serve as the independent third party charged with analyzing gaps in the drug supply chain and supplying that analysis to ARI participants.

“Drug shortages are a critical and complex challenge facing the nation. It is crucial that stakeholders in the healthcare supply chain work together to ensure patients have access to the potentially life-saving treatments they depend on for their health,” said HSCA President Curtis Rooney. “The group purchasing industry commends the Generic Pharmaceutical Association for taking an important step in implementing the Accelerated Recovery Initiative to combat the drug shortages that are endangering the health of patients across the United States. Naming IMS Health as the independent third party to analyze gaps in the drug supply chain is a critical step toward implementing ARI, an innovative, private-sector solution to mounting drug shortages.”

The ARI calls for an independent third party to gather current and future product supply information; use the information to identify existing and potential supply gaps, focusing on products with an expected shortage time of longer than 90 days; and involve a high-level "SWAT team" within the FDA to quickly respond to shortages. GPhA has identified IMS Health as the ideal partner to assume this critical role within the initiative.

“HSCA believes ARI is an important step in helping both hospitals and healthcare providers with mitigating the impact of drug shortages,” said Rooney. “We look forward to working all the stakeholders in the healthcare supply chain to mitigate the impact of these drug shortages and protect the continuous uninterrupted supply of critical drugs that patients rely on for their health.”

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### **About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)**

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association, formerly the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association, is a broad-based trade association that represents 15 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit

and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HSCA's mission is to advocate on behalf of healthcare 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.supplychainassociation.org](http://www.supplychainassociation.org).