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HSCA APPLAUDS POSITIVE FTC ADVISORY OPINION ON THE ACCELERATED RECOVERY INITIATIVE (ARI) TO HELP COMBAT DRUG SHORTAGES

Accelerated Recovery Initiative a Private Sector, Multi-Stakeholder Effort from the Generic Pharmaceutical Association that Would Bring Together GPOs, Manufacturers, Distributors, Wholesalers and the FDA to Help Address Drug Shortages

Washington, DC (August 9, 2012) – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) today applauded the positive Federal Trade Commission (FTC) advisory opinion that the Generic Pharmaceutical Association (GPhA) received for its Accelerated Recovery Initiative (ARI). 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.

“The Accelerated Recovery Initiative is an important tool to help both hospitals and healthcare providers mitigate the impact of drug shortages, and the positive FTC advisory opinion is an important step in the continued development of ARI,” said HSCA President Curtis Rooney. “Drug shortages are a complex challenge, and one without an easy or overnight fix. We look forward to continuing to work with all healthcare supply chain stakeholders to protect the continuous uninterrupted supply of critical drugs that patients rely on for their health.”

GPhA [proposed the creation of the Accelerated Recovery Initiative](#) in late 2011. The ARI would call 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 a 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. Earlier this year, GPhA announced that it had selected IMS Health to serve as the independent third party charged with analyzing gaps in the drug supply chain and supplying that analysis to ARI participants.

GPhA and IMS Health are now working closely with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to finalize the details of the initiative and begin operation of the ARI in the near future.

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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.