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HSCA STATEMENT ON CARDINAL HEALTH AND THE HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAIN

Washington, DC (March 9, 2012) – Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) President Curtis Rooney today released the following statement on the decision to suspend Cardinal Health’s license to ship controlled substances from its Lakeland, Florida facility:

“While we cannot speak to the facts in the Cardinal Health case, the decision to suspend their license to ship controlled substances will have major implications for the healthcare supply chain, which is already in a very fragile state. Critical drug shortages, concerns about prescription drug abuse, and the need to ensure adequate supplies of legitimate drugs to patients are stressing the system. Suspending Cardinal Health’s license places a chokehold at the top of the healthcare supply chain, even though distributors cannot and should not prescribe pharmaceuticals or play any role in how prescription drugs are used. Because there are many components of the supply chain, if such a strain is imposed at the top, significant unintended consequences can occur affecting the delivery of medicines to legitimate patients who are dependent on them for their health.

“It is critical that all components of the supply chain work together to strike the right balance between ensuring medications do not fall into the wrong hands, while also ensuring the same medications are available for legitimate patient care. Everyone in the healthcare supply chain has a role and a responsibility, though only those with knowledge of individual prescriptions have the appropriate information about whether drugs are prescribed for legitimate or illegitimate purposes. Supply chain integrity and the needs of patients should be paramount.”

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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.