Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding Project
Briefing Note
October 27 , 2011

Project Update and Next Steps

Project Overview

Since our last update, the Project continues to focus primarily on three activity streams:

- The dissemination of information aligned with the Project and its Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Bar Coding and Database Requirements (JTS) Version I; and
- Additional technical details related to both database requirements and future bar coding requirements within Canada.
- Planning for an End-user Implementation kit, and other described Phase IV activities (below)

As will be outlined below, the Project is planning for a Fall 2011 release of an update (Version II) to the February 2010 JTS (Version I) document.

Phases II and III as described in the original project plan are now completed, with the exception of the formal issuance of a revised Joint Technical Statement (Version II), as per below.

Implementation Committee (IC) June Meeting

The Project held a June 2011 meeting of the Implementation (Advisory) Committee (IC). This meeting allowed input into the proposed version II of the JTS, which arose from the work of the Technical Task Force, and a Database Working Group.

The following project deliverables were raised:

- Proposed changes to version I of the JTS (see below)
- Development of national pharmaceutical package label guidelines to complement Health Canada labelling requirements.
- Review of the current Technical Task Force and Implementation Committee terms of reference document for the upcoming phase.
- Review of planned Phase IV, including end-user implementation kit, and status of project fund-raising.

Project Endorsements and Joint Support Activities

Communication with many Canadian healthcare organizations continues. Recent direct communications have taken place with Accreditation Canada, Canadian Nurses Association, Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, B.C. Ministry of Health Services, Federal Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers of Health Committee, Western Health Quality Councils; Health Canada, Canadian Healthcare Association, and the Canadian Forces Health Services. Communications with an expanded circle of organizations will occur in the Fall of 2011.

Over the past months, bar coding and project endorsements have been received from the following organizations, and are attached to this briefing note:

- Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacy
- Canadian Medical Association
- Canadian Nurses Association

- Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society
- Canadian Medical and Biomedical Engineering Society,
- B.C. Patient Safety and Quality Council, and
- Ontario Hospital Association
- Canadian Healthcare Association

Endorsement letters are available on the project web pages: http://www.ismp-canada.org/barcoding/index.htm

The project was presented recently to a number of influential practice and regulatory groups. These groups include:

- The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Deputy Ministers of Health Meeting (June 2011).
- The Canadian Anaesthesiologists' Society Conference (June 2011)
- The Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres: National Webinar (July 2011) [and National Conference Safety Panel is planned October 2011}
- B.C. Hospital Services Association (June 2011)
- Eli Lilly Pharmacy Management Seminar (May 2011)
- GS1 Global Healthcare Conference, Washington D.C. (April 2011)
- B.C. Provincial Pharmacy Directors' Meeting (planned Sept 2011)
- Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres: Annual Conference (October 2011): Ottawa Joint Seminar

Technical Task Force (TTF) And Work Groups

A day long meeting of the TTF was held on April 12, 2011 in Toronto. Its objectives were to complete the recommendations for the planned release of version II of the JTS, scheduled for Fall 2011.

Version I of the JTS called for an adhoc Database Working Group (DBWG) to complete work related to the use of standardized pharmaceutical product (data) descriptors, from a Canadian Central Pharmaceutical Product Registry (CCPPR). The DBWG completed its work in April. (See DBWG section below).

The April TTF completed recommendations in the following additional technical issues:

- Timeline for inclusion of variable data elements with Pharmaceutical product bar codes: Lot number and Expiry date.
- Guidelines for the placement of bar codes on pharmaceutical labels for primary packaging
- Maintenance of the JTS, and continued role of the TTF in the project Phase IV (see below).

Database Working Group (DBWG)Activities

The tasks assigned to the DBWG have been completed, and the working group has now been disbanded. Recommendations from its work have been prepared for TTF and IC review on the following issues:

- The recommendation of ECCNet Registry as the predominant Common Canadian Pharmaceutical Product Registry (CCPPR); used as a source of standardized product descriptors data elements.
- Responsibilities of End-users related to the use of CCPPR data use and integrity.
- Technology Providers and "clinical" practice End-users have agreed upon a checklist of minimal safety software functionality (**MinFn**) for automated (Information) systems related to medication bar code use. (To be used as a reference in the development and acquisition of computerized systems in the future.)
- An assessment of the current ECCNet Registry data elements ability to support the **MinFn** list of functionality, along with recommendations to GS1 Canada to have all possible data elements considered for global standardization.
- Proposal of three models of data transfer from ECCNet registry to end-user organizations be considered to achieve reliable data transfer to End-user organizations and their local system databases.

A new healthcare sector was invited to participate in the Project, particularly in the possible role of transmittal of standard data to end-users from the CCPPR (ECCNet Registry). This sector is the "Drug Reference Data Providers", and includes invitations to Micromedex, First DataBank, Wolters-Kluwer (Medispan), Cerner (Multum) and LexiComp.

It was noted that the **MinFn** list should not yet be assumed to be directly applicable to the community healthcare sector (Retail Pharmacies and community care facilities). It will be revisited under a later community stage of our Project.

GS1 Canada Joint Actions

GS1 Canada continues to work collaboratively in support of the Project.

GS1 is presently communicating with the five above Drug Reference Data Providers, plus Technology Providers, to investigate direct business partnerships, possibly under one of the data transfer models defined by the DBWG. Such partnerships will assist in the transfer of standardized product (data) descriptors.

Release of the Updated Joint Technical Statement Revision (Version II)

The following changes are under advanced discussion for an updated version of the JTS planned for release in the Fall of 2011, using TTF recommendations and pending IC input and approval:

- ECCNet Registry will be named as the preferred CCPPR, but with additional GDSN-approved databases acknowledged.
- Proposed Models of Data Transfer from ECCNet Registry to End-User Organizations
- Minimal Safety Software Functionality (MinFn) Checklist for bar coding functions within clinical end-user practices (Institutions)
- Bar Code Placement Guidance for Pharmaceutical Manufacturers
- Required variable data elements in Canadian Pharmaceutical bar codes (and timeline for compliance)
- Community transition guidance from UPC to newer bar codes

Phase III and IV Financial Update

Phase III and new Phase IV (below) activities are ongoing. Additional project expenses, including meetings, are planned for 2012.

Budgetary project projections have been made to December 2012, and show an estimated positive balance.

All supporters of the project, including funders, will be fully acknowledged on project material and web pages.

Phase IV Activity

Phase IV activities of this project have been defined, and began in September 2010, with overlapping residual Phase III activities. Phase IV will continue for two years. (Appendix A). Key activities in this phase include:

- Release of Joint Technical Statement (JTS) (version II)
- Development of an End-user Implementation Kit
- Pharmaceutical Package label Guidelines to complement Health Canada efforts
- Ongoing stewardship of the Joint Technical Statement by ISMP Canada.

For a period of time in 2011, the completion of the final Phase III objective (Issuance of the JTS version II) will be co-incidental with Phase IV activities.

Next Steps Summary:

Database Work Group	None
Technical Task Force	Meeting April 12, 2011 (completed)

Implementation Committee	Meeting June 9, 2011 (completed).
JTS Version II Update	Planned: November 2011
Phase IV Activities	Planning and activities began May 2011 and continue. (Appendix A) Plan for Community Practice Project Dissemination
Dissemination and Stakeholder Engagement (D&SE)	Ongoing. Next phase to include additional practice communities: provincial Health Quality Councils, Community Care. Multiple presentations are planned.

Appendix A: Phase III/IV: 2011/2012 Current and Planned Activities