



# Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Soci t  canadienne des pharmaciens d'h pitaux

## Mission

March 17, 2011

Committed to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related healthcare settings.

Engag s   l'avancement de l'utilisation s curitaire et efficace des m dicaments, et des soins aux patients dans les  tablissements de sant .

The Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy

Le Journal canadien de la pharmacie hospitali re

Canadian Hospital Pharmacy Residency Board

Conseil canadien de r sidence en pharmacie d'h pital

Board of Fellows

Conseil des associ s

David U  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada  
4711 Yonge Street, Suite 501  
Toronto, ON M2N 6K8

Hugh MacLeod  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Patient Safety Institute  
10235 - 101 Street, Suite 1414  
Edmonton, AB T5J 3G1

Dear David and Hugh,

I am pleased to inform you, although belatedly, that CSHP Council has endorsed the adoption of the GS1 global standards for automated identification (e.g., bar coding) of pharmaceutical products in Canada and the *Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Product Database Requirements* at its meeting on August 6, 2010. The GS1 standards and the intent of the statement are closely aligned with CSHP's commitment to the advancement of safe, effective medication use and patient care in hospitals and related health care settings.

In 2008 CSHP issued a revised position statement on drug distribution endorsing the unit-dose/intravenous (I.V.) admixture system as the system of choice in organized health care settings in Canada. This position statement highlights the increased adaptability of such a system to computerized procedures such as bar coding, automated packaging and ward-based point-of-use technology ([http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/1\\_S\\_Unit\\_Dose\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/1_S_Unit_Dose_2008.pdf)). Furthermore, the GS1 standards and the intent of the technical statement fall within the scope of one of our CSHP 2015 goals ([http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/2\\_CSHP-2015-Goals-and-Objectives-Feb-25%2707-w-Appdx-rev-May%2708.pdf](http://www.cshp.ca/dms/dmsView/2_CSHP-2015-Goals-and-Objectives-Feb-25%2707-w-Appdx-rev-May%2708.pdf)), to "Increase the extent to which hospitals and related healthcare settings apply technology effectively to improve the safety of medication use", and two of its underlying objectives:

- 75% of hospitals will use machine-readable coding to verify medications before dispensing.
- 75% of hospitals will use machine-readable coding to verify all medications before administration to a patient.

The adoption of the GS1 standards and the requirements set in the Joint Technical Statement will undoubtedly allow Canadian hospitals to improve the efficiency and the safety of the national medication-use system.

Best regards,

Myrella Roy, B.Sc.Pharm., Pharm.D., FCCP  
Executive Director

cc: Jimmy Fung, Pharmacy Clinical Manager, Credit Valley Hospital, Mississauga, Ontario  
Jason Howorko, Past President and External Liaison, CSHP  
Sylvia Hyland, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, ISMP Canada  
Pierrette L onard, Senior Advisor - National Partners, CPSI  
Ian Sheppard, Project Leader Canadian Pharmaceutical Barcode Project, ISMP Canada