



Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
Institut pour l'utilisation sécuritaire des médicaments du Canada

4711 Yonge St, Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario M2N 6K8
Phone: 416.733.3131
Toll Free: 1.866.544.7672
www.ismp-canada.org



Suite 1414, 10235 - 101 Street
Edmonton, AB, Canada T5J 3G1
Toll Free: 1.866.421.6933
Phone: 780.409.8090
www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca

September 28, 2011

Deputy Minister (Name)
Position
Address
City, Province

Dear Deputy Minister,

Re: Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding Project – FPT Deputy Minister Presentation (June 10, 2011)

On behalf of both the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the opportunity to present this national collaborative initiative at your June Federal, Provincial and Territorial Conference of Deputy Ministers of Health. We value the interest you and your colleagues have shown, and trust that we may continue to dialogue with your Ministry and seek ongoing alignment.

The importance of a national position on pharmaceutical automated identification and data capture (AIDC), across all healthcare sectors and using a common AIDC standard, cannot be understated. We believe the collaboration shown by so many healthcare sectors and organizations for this initiative attests to its importance for the public safety of Canadians. The many participating organizations are visibly acknowledged on the project web pages available at <http://www.ismp-canada.org/barcoding/index.htm>.

Our project reviewed the available global automated standards and related pharmaceutical product descriptor databases, including other AIDC standards that are primarily U.S. based and not bilingual. The project participants agreed, by consensus and aligned with many other international health jurisdictions, that the GS1 global AIDC standard is the standard around which Canada should develop its pharmaceutical strategies for the foreseeable future.

ISMP Canada is the leading organization for medication safety in Canada and CPSI is an organization whose mission it is to inspire extraordinary improvement in patient safety and quality. We are committed to continue the role of stewardship in this key area of business and safety alignment, and will continue to monitor trends in available global AIDC standards to assure that the most advantageous position is taken by our country.

We will keep you informed of project progress, and hope that we may soon continue our collaboration with your own efforts in this area.

Once again, thank you in advance for any support your Ministry can provide for the project's next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David U'.

David U
President and Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hugh McLeod'.

Hugh McLeod
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Patient Safety Institute

Cc: Ian Sheppard, Project Leader (ISheppard@ismp-canada.org)
Pierrette Leonard, Co-Chair, Implementation Committee
Sylvia Hyland, Co-Chair, Implementation Committee