



March 1, 2011

Mr. Ian Sheppard
Project Leader, Canadian Pharmaceutical Barcode Project
Institute for Safe Medication Practices
4711 Yonge Street, Suite 501
Toronto, ON M2N 6K8

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

The B.C. Patient Safety & Quality Council is committed to improving quality of care for patients in British Columbia. As such, we fully support the collaborative efforts of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada, Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and its partners to recommend the adoption of a Canadian standard for automated identification of medications.

In an effort to increase medication safety for patients, we endorse the Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Product Database Requirements. The Council further supports your ongoing efforts to increase the awareness of the automated identification of medications, and to develop a Canadian strategy for community medication system adoption, both of which will reduce preventable medications errors.

We will continue to monitor the progress of this initiative, and support the ongoing efforts towards implementation of automated identification of pharmaceuticals, as an important development in patient safety.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "D. Douglas Cochrane".

D. Douglas Cochrane, M.D., FRCSC, FAAP
Provincial Patient Safety & Quality Officer and
Chair, B.C. Patient Safety & Quality Council

DDC/ec

(2011/March/Sheppard-Automated Identification of Medications-Mar-01)