

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

2 June 2010

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

Re: The Use of Automated Identification and Data Capture in Product Identification and Documentation, Based on a pan-Canadian Standard

The Canadian Medical Association supports initiatives that increase patient safety and whose implementation is feasible within the fiscal parameters of Canadian healthcare. Adverse drug events, especially those that are preventable through improved healthcare systems, are an ongoing concern to the Association.

Our Association supports the use of Automated Identification and Data Capture (AIDC) for the identification and documentation of therapeutic products and vaccines given to or prescribed for patients. We also support the development of related technical systems to assist practitioners while performing such patient care activities.

Two companion projects, the Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding Project and the Automated Identification of Vaccines Projects, have as their objectives the adoption of a pan-Canadian GS1 standard for automated identification and product data capture, for pharmaceutical and vaccine products, respectively. These projects are unique Canadian collaborations between organizations from several Canadian health sectors and global partners.

We encourage both organizations and practitioners alike to support these ongoing efforts to improve medication and vaccine practices and, thereby, patient safety.

Sincerely,



S.E.D. Shortt, MD, PhD, FCFP
Director
Knowledge Transfer & Practice Policy