



June 29, 2011

Mr. David U  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada  
4711 Yonge Street, Suite 501  
Toronto, ON M2M6K8

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

Dear Mr. U and Mr. MacLeod:

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) to offer our endorsement of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding Project, specifically:

- implementation of automated identification methods to increase medication patient safety for both institution and community care;
- adoption of the GS1 Global Automated Identification Standard (including bar coding) for use within the Canadian medication chain; and
- support for the project as a national collaborative among six Canadian health sectors, including the document *Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Product Database Requirements*.

This project is consistent with CNA's vision, and we acknowledge the value to the health system that standards for medication safety will provide.

We also wish to thank you for the opportunity to collaborate on the project by having Elizabeth Borycki and Katarina Busija represent CNA on the Implementation Committee and Technical Task Force, respectively. These nurses provide a valuable nursing perspective to the project.

As the national professional voice of registered nurses, CNA advances both the practice and the profession of nursing to improve health outcomes in a publicly funded, not-for-profit health system. Patient safety is fundamental to nursing care and to health care generally across all settings and sectors. It is not merely a mandate; it is a moral and ethical imperative in caring for others.

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Mr. David U and Mr. Hugh MacLeod

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CNA is proud of our partnership with the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and we value our collaboration with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada on this project and others. We look forward to advancing the patient safety agenda with you.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Bard', written in a cursive style.

Rachel Bard, RN, M.A.Ed.  
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Sylvia Hyland, vice president and chief operating officer, ISMP Canada  
Ian Sheppard, project leader, Canadian Pharmaceutical Barcode Project, ISMP Canada  
Pierrette Leonard, senior advisor - national partners, CPSI  
Judith Shamian, president, CNA  
June Webber, director, policy and leadership, CNA