

February 16, 2010

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

Dear Mr. Sheppard:

The Health Quality Council of Alberta, as an organization dedicated to improving patient safety and health service quality, fully supports the efforts of ISMP-Canada and CPSI to establish voluntary national standards for automated identification of pharmaceuticals in Canada through a unique collaborative process that has engaged a broad scope of stakeholders.

We endorse the resulting Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Product Database Requirements as an important step to improving medication safety in all sectors of the health care system. Patients will benefit not only from bedside point-of-care applications that use automated identification technologies, but also from improved management and tracking of pharmaceuticals throughout the supply chain. In addition we endorse the adoption of the GS1 global standard for automated identification of pharmaceuticals which will allow Canada to leverage important work that has been accomplished globally in this area.

We would be pleased to be recognized as a participant in the consensus process that led to the development of this important document, and will allow you to use our logo in communication related to the Joint Technical Statement. We will provide a link to the project website from our website. Most importantly, we will advocate for implementation of automated identification of pharmaceuticals throughout Alberta's health system as an important advance in patient safety.

Sincerely,



John W. Cowell, MD, FRCPC
Chief Executive Officer

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