



March 4, 2010

Mr. David U
President & Chief Executive Officer
Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
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Suite 501
Toronto, ON M2N 6K8

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

Dear Mr. U and Mr. MacLeod:

Congratulations on your launch of the pan-Canadian initiative for adoption and implementation of the **Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Product Database Requirements** across all health care sectors. This national initiative is of great interest to the Health Council of Canada as patient safety is an essential area of focus when monitoring the health care and health status of Canadians.

As you have noted, this initiative has the potential to serve as a significant risk management strategy within Canada for all parties involved in pharmaceutical manufacturing, distribution and administration. Implementation of various aspects of the initiative will have differing implications for the various jurisdictions and players in our health care system. I would be interested to learn more about the results of consultations you have had with them to more fully understand what these implications might be and the state of readiness of the various players. That being said, in terms of our formal support of the Joint Statement, we have posted the information on our home page at www.healthcouncilcanada.ca, in the space, "Find out what others are saying about Pharmaceuticals."

I look forward to learning more about implementation strategies for this significant and important initiative.

Yours sincerely,



John G. Abbott
Chief Executive Officer