



## **HealthPRO applauds adoption of GS1 global standard for pharmaceuticals**

*February 3, 2010, Toronto, ON:* HealthPRO is pleased to endorse the adoption of the GS1 global standard for automated identification of pharmaceutical products in Canada. “We welcomed the opportunity to support and participate in the Canadian Pharmaceutical Bar Coding Project led by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute,” says Kathy Boyle, VP Pharmacy Services at HealthPRO. “This has been an excellent process that has included many sectors involved in pharmaceuticals and we are happy to see such a positive outcome.”

“GPOs now have a common voice and vision on the issue of bar coding of pharmaceuticals,” continues Boyle. “We can now formally adopt the new standards and integrate them into our respective contract awards criteria. We will also focus our efforts on supporting our members to successfully implement bar coding verification technology into their medication systems. This development is a major building block in establishing a safer, more effective and efficient pharmacy distribution system – from the manufacturer to the patient bedside.”

“Working with our members to adopt global supply chain standards will help ensure that the right product gets to the right location,” adds Michael Foley, CEO of HealthPRO. “This will result in decreased supply chain costs, faster order cycles, and increased patient safety, generating significant value for both patients and hospitals.”

### **About HealthPRO**

HealthPRO is Canada’s largest health care procurement services organization with contract values in excess of one billion dollars. Owned by and responsible to our member shareholders, we offer a comprehensive range of contracts for the highest quality products at the lowest cost, a benchmark product evaluation process and a unique policy of choice and flexibility. Current product and service categories include Pharmacy Services, Clinical Services and Clinical Specialties, Energy Management, Nutrition & Food Services, Special Services and On-site Managed Services.