



Medbuy supports the adoption of national bar code standard for pharmaceuticals

(London, ON): February 3, 2010 – Medbuy is pleased to endorse the adoption of the GS1 global standard for the automated identification of pharmaceuticals in Canada.

“We congratulate both the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada for their efforts in leading the development of national standards,” says Ann Kelterborn, Medbuy’s Vice President, Pharmacy. “This was a truly collaborative initiative that involved participation from across the healthcare community – Medbuy is pleased to be a part of the process.”

She adds, “We now have consensus on a standard format for labeling medication packaging that will further a goal we all share – to ensure quality, safe, patient-focused care. The benefits also extend to our collective effort to build a more efficient and effective healthcare supply chain.”

Medbuy will now work to support its membership and industry partners in the adoption of the standards contained in the Joint Technical Statement. “GPOs play a unique and significant role in our ability to work together, with partners at multiple levels throughout the industry, toward the common goal of strengthening our healthcare delivery systems,” says Rick Cochrane, CEO of Medbuy. “When we were asked to provide seed money for the bar coding task force, we did so gladly because it’s an issue of great importance to our Members.”

He continues, “We strongly believe that the reduction of medication errors and the resolution of inefficiencies through adoption of global standards must become an industry imperative.”

About Medbuy

Medbuy is one of Canada’s leading healthcare group purchasing organizations. Since 1989, we have partnered with health service providers across Canada to reduce the cost of healthcare supplies and services, and in that time, have saved provincial health systems hundreds of millions of dollars. Through our Research, Education and Development Fund, we have a long history of supporting issues of importance in the healthcare sector, including several patient safety initiatives.

- Support the Canadian Association of Paediatric Health Centres through an annual grant for patient safety and quality improvement initiatives.
- Exclusive national sponsor of pan-Canadian broadcast of the Institute for Health Care Improvement’s annual forum on quality improvement in healthcare
- Sponsor delegation to attend Institute for Health Care Improvement’s annual forum on quality improvement in healthcare
- Funds for spinal injection safety system research project at B.C. Children’s and Women’s Health Centres.
- Founding sponsor and participant in joint task force of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute and Institute for Safe Medication Practices investigating bar coding for pharmaceuticals.
- Sponsor of medication reconciliation workshop presented by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices

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