

September 28, 2010

Mr. David U
President and CEO
Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
4711 Yonge Street, 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 David and Hugh:

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) is pleased to support your work in developing a pan-Canadian strategy for bar-coding and establishing voluntary standards for the automated identification of pharmaceuticals in Canada. The OHA supports the adoption of the GS1 global standard, which will enhance efforts to make the health system safer, more efficient, and accurate by improving the management and tracking of pharmaceuticals throughout the entire supply chain.

The OHA would also like to congratulate you on the completion of the first phase of the project, and commend you for establishing a collaborative process for the development of the *Joint Technical Statement on Pharmaceutical Automated Identification and Database Requirements*.

The OHA has a very strong commitment to improving quality and patient safety throughout the health system, and recently launched the *OHA Quality and Patient Safety Plan (2010-2013)*, which aims to advance the system-wide adoption and dissemination of leading evidence-based practice. To this end, we are providing our members with a link to your project website to help promote the adoption of technology as an enabler of further quality and patient safety improvements and medication safety.

We look forward to the continued success of your very important initiative.

Sincerely,



Tom Closson
President and CEO
Ontario Hospital Association