



Our Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Island Communities, Seamless Service

October 1, 2008

Ref #: 7724

Mr. Michael Cohen
President, Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
4711 Yonge Street, Suite 501
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M2N 6K8

Mr. Phillip Hassen
CEO, Canadian Patient Safety Institute
Suite 1414, 10235 - 101 Street
Edmonton, AB, Canada
T5J 3G1

Dear Mr. Cohen and Mr. Hassen,

On behalf of the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA), I would like to take this opportunity to express our strong support for mandatory standardized bar coding on pharmaceutical products.

Many of us here at VIHA read the proceedings of the stakeholder invitational roundtable, released in June of this year, with great interest. We were particularly pleased to see our thoughts and views regarding bar coding reflected in the document.

This work represents an important foundational element in the development and implementation of standardized bar coding, which in turn represents a critical advancement in patient safety. It is our sincere hope that this work will move forward rapidly, and that Canada-wide bar coding will be implemented at the earliest opportunity.

Once again, thank you for leading the way on the important patient safety activity. We look forward to seeing this initiative advance in the near future.

Regards,



Howard Waldner
President and CEO
Vancouver Island Health Authority

Cc: Mike Conroy, Executive VP and COO, VIHA
Bob Clark, Executive Director, Pharmacy, Diagnostic, and Surgical Services, VIHA

Executive Office

located at 2101 Richmond Avenue, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 4R7 • Tel: (250) 370-8699 • Fax (250) 370-8750
mailing address: 1952 Bay Street, Victoria, B.C., Canada V8R 1J8