



# Health Industry Business Communications Council

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## **2004 MARKS HIBCC'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Organization Celebrates Two Decades of Providing Healthcare IT Standards**

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (March 29, 2004)-- The Health Industry Business Communications Council (HIBCC) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year as a preeminent healthcare standards development organization (SDO). HIBCC maintains standards and services for manufacturer, customer, and product identification codes, including the Health Industry Bar Code (HIBC) Standards, the Health Industry Number (HIN®) System, and the Universal Product Number (UPN®) Repository.

Founded in 1983 by a consortium of major national healthcare associations, HIBCC was tasked with developing bar code labeling standards that would fulfill the unique requirements of the healthcare industry. The HIBC Supplier Labeling and Provider Applications Standards are a result of that effort. Since their development, the HIBC Standards have been employed internationally by many of the world's largest providers of healthcare products and services.

In February 2004, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advocated the use of the HIBC Supplier Labeling Standard in their final rule on Bar Code Labeling of Human Drug Products. The rule is anticipated to prevent nearly 500,000 adverse medical events and save an estimated \$93 billion over the next 20 years.

"This anniversary is a milestone and reflects the tremendous effort made by the HIBCC constituency in the last two decades," states Robert A Hankin, Ph.D., President and CEO of HIBCC. "Their dedication has allowed the HIBCC organization, as well as our standards and services, to evolve and to meet the ever-changing IT needs of the healthcare industry."

Since its inception HIBCC's mission has expanded to include the development of many other e-business standards used to promote supply chain efficiencies, including HIN, UPN and EDI/XML message formats. This mission is extended globally via IHIBCC, an international network of HIBCC offices.

HIBCC's broad governance represents the entire spectrum of the healthcare supply chain and includes - the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Society for Automation in Pharmacy (ASAP), the American Veterinary Distributors Association (AVDA), the Association for Healthcare Resource and Materials Management (AHRMM), the Federation of American Hospitals (FAH), the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA), the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS), the Healthcare Distribution and Management Association (HDMA), the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association (PhRMA) and the US Department of Defense (DoD).

HIBCC and the HIBC Standards are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

Additional information regarding the HIBCC organization can be accessed from the HIBCC web site at: [www.hibcc.org](http://www.hibcc.org)

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