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POSITIVE ID FOR PATIENT SAFETY STANDARD RECEIVES ANSI FINAL APPROVAL

Standard to Enhance Providers Patient Safety Systems

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (March 17, 2008)- The Positive Identification for Patient Safety; Part 1: Medication Delivery Standard was recently approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The standard, which defines the processes and technologies involved with safe medication administration and management, is a joint development of The Health Industry Business Communications Council (HIBCC) and Partners HealthCare System.

The new standard was developed from work initiated by Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH), a hospital within the Partners HealthCare System. In 2004 MGH embarked on a project to define and develop a safer system for the administration of medication to its patients. The success of their efforts led the organization to seek formal standardization of their processes, in order that they could be easily and uniformly implemented by other providers. HIBCC, an ANSI-accredited standards development organization (SDO), administered the process to formally develop an approved data standard.

ANSI/HIBC 3.0 Positive Identification for Patient Safety; Part 1: Medication Delivery can be accessed from www.hibcc.org. Please contact the HIBCC office at (602) 381-1091 with any questions.

About HIBCC: HIBCC is an industry-sponsored, ANSI-accredited standards development organization (SDO), established in 1984 by major national healthcare associations to develop and maintain information technology standards for healthcare applications. HIBCC provides standards for uniform product identification (bar coding, 2D, and RFID), as well as services for standardized customer identification, such as its Health Industry Number (HIN) System.

About Partners: Partners HealthCare was founded in 1994 by Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital. Partners is an integrated health care system that offers patients a continuum of coordinated high-quality care. The system includes primary care and specialty physicians, community hospitals, the two founding academic medical centers, specialty facilities, community health centers, and other health-related entities. Partners HealthCare is a non-profit organization.

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