



**Health Industry
Business
Communications
Council**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“UPN ON-LINE” ENHANCEMENTS NOW AVAILABLE

PHOENIX, AZ (June 28, 2005) – The Health Industry Business Communications Council (HIBCC) has announced the release of an upgrade to “UPN On-Line,” the web-enabled application for accessing the UPN Repository. The enhancements provide increased functionality and ease of use for direct access to UPN product information.

In addition to the option for downloading the UPN Repository file, users are now able to submit and query UPN data as well. The query function enables users to search for UPN records by supplier, company prefix, product number, or individual UPN. The submit function provides the ability to submit individual UPNs, modify/view individual UPNs, and upload a file of multiple records. Registration is required to access the application but is free of charge. Individuals can register at www.upnrepository.org.

A user guide, “*UPNs and the UPN Repository: A HIBCC Overview*” has been published to facilitate use of the application. Individuals may request a hard copy of the guide from the HIBCC office, or download an electronic (PDF) version on the UPN site.

The UPN initiative evolved from the need for a standard, yet unique, number for identifying medical goods at different levels of packaging and has become the industry standard for product identification. In 1997, HIBCC was tasked with developing the UPN Repository, a centralized, master catalog of medical-surgical products identified by a UPN.

HIBCC is an industry-sponsored, non-profit standards development organization (SDO), established in 1984 by major national healthcare associations to develop and maintain information technology standards for healthcare applications. HIBCC extends its mission globally via IHIBCC, an international network of HIBCC offices. HIBCC and the HIBC Standards are accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

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