Health Industry Business Communications Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANSI Approves HIBCC Standard for Patient Identification and Event Tracking.

Phoenix, Arizona (July 9, 2010) – The Health Industry Bar Code (HIBC) Provider Applications Standard (PAS), recently revised to provide enhancements in support of in-hospital patient tracking, has been given final approval by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Also known as ANSI/HIBC 1.3-2010, the revised standard was developed by the Health Industry Business Communications Council (HIBCC), the accredited global standards development organization that supports patient safety by creating industry-supported non-proprietary standards for healthcare product and facility identification.

The Provider Standard is a framework for identification and tracking the wide variety of assets, products, and records that are deployed within hospital and other healthcare settings. The standard includes specifications covering patient identification, asset tracking, employees, test results, medical records and more. When used in conjunction with the Health Industry Supplier Labeling Standard (SLS), which medical manufacturers use to identify their products, the standards unify to cover the spectrum of provider requirements for improved patient safety.

A major enhancement in ANSI/HIBC 1.3 is the inclusion of the "Patient Visit ID" which can be used to differentiate unique hospital visits for a given patient.   Within hospitals, a Medical Record Number (MRN) is already assigned to each patient and stays with the patient permanently. However, the Visit ID, which is now part of the HIBC PAS, significantly enhances patient tracking by identifying specific episodes of care for each patient. Thus, for example, hospitals that have multiple campuses, or groups of hospitals, can uniquely identify each patient across the entire group by combining the HIBCC Visit ID with the Medical Record Number.

In addition to enhancements such as the Visit ID, the revised HIBCC PAS is now fully compatible with the ISO framework by including options to encode data using the ISO 15434 standard. ISO compatibility insures the international applicability of HIBCC Standards.

HIBCC has been accredited and recognized by ANSI, the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). HIBCC's mission is to facilitate electronic commerce by developing appropriate standards for product and location identification among health care trading partners. HIBCC activities are managed globally via various international affiliates.

To read more about ANSI/HIBC 1.30 please visit www.hibcc.org.