



Health Industry Business Communications Council

Providing Healthcare's Supply Chain Solutions



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIBCC & PARTNERS HEALTHCARE COLLABORATE ON PATIENT SAFETY STANDARD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA (April 2, 2007)- The Health Industry Business Communications Council (HIBCC) and Partners HealthCare System have announced their joint development of a data standard to enhance providers patient safety systems. The standard, entitled, "*Positive Identification for Patient Safety; Part 1: Medication Delivery*" defines the processes and technologies involved with safe medication administration and management.

The new standard is being 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), will administer the process to formally develop an approved data standard.

The provider community is encouraged to review and comment on the draft standard and to participate in the development process. For more information please visit the HIBCC Web site at: www.hibcc.org/patientsafety.htm.

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, 2-D, and RFID), as well as services for standardized customer identification, such as its Health Industry Number (HIN) System.

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). HIBCC plays a major advocacy and educational role for the healthcare industry by providing a forum for consensus-based standards development.

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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