



Associations Align to Advance Patient Safety and Healthcare Supply Chain Efficiencies

Toronto, ON, May 26, 2008 – Members of CareNET Services Inc. (CareNET) voted on Friday in favour of aligning with GS1 Canada. Together, the organizations will dedicate collective focus on making Canada's healthcare system safer and more efficient through the development and implementation of global supply chain standards.

"We are pleased to confirm CareNET's commitment to join forces with GS1 Canada", commented N. Arthur Smith, President and CEO of GS1 Canada. "CareNET has a solid history of promoting, educating and supporting the use of electronic business processes across the healthcare supply chain. Together we will pursue our shared goal of developing and facilitating the implementation of global standards that will ultimately protect patients in Canadian hospitals and enable healthcare staff to spend more time with those in their care."

In a major step to spearhead Canada's national strategy, CareNET members collectively voted to focus the association's mandate on leading the healthcare sector to adherence of globally recognized supply chain standards. Representing 56% of Canadian hospitals as well as leading healthcare manufacturers, CareNET members will work with GS1 Canada to build partnerships with stakeholders from across the healthcare sector. The alliance highlights an opportunity for Canadian healthcare institutions to strengthen patient safety and achieve significant internal savings through the adoption of and adherence to globally recognized supply chain standards and automation, such as bar coding and radio frequency identification (RFID).

"Global supply chain standards have the potential to have a major impact on our healthcare system," said Mike Rosser, CareNET Executive Committee Co-Chair. "Standards will enable system transparency and eliminate duplication and confusion; enhancing collaboration among healthcare stakeholders and above all, avoiding mistakes that can lead to dangerous medical errors."

"We are very happy with the results of Friday's vote", commented Rob West, CareNET Executive Committee Co-Chair. "GS1 Canada has a history of success working with multiple sectors including manufacturing and retail to create non-proprietary, neutral and efficient global standards for electronic supply chains. The GS1 System of standards offers a viable approach, creating interoperability and visibility within the supply chain, which is important, as healthcare products come from all over the world."

This decision is timely - from June 17-19, 2008, GS1 Canada will be host country to the GS1 Healthcare Conference in Toronto, Ontario. Featuring experts and speakers from around the world, this conference will focus on measures to improve supply chain management in the healthcare sector; enhancing patient safety, safeguarding against counterfeit drugs and devices, reducing medication errors and tracking critical equipment.

About CareNET Services Inc.

CareNET Services Inc. is an association of Canadian healthcare providers and suppliers promoting, educating, facilitating and supporting the use of e-commerce. Their goal is to improve business processes and reduce costs throughout the health care supply chain. For more information, visit www.carenet.ca.

About GS1 Canada

GS1 Canada is a neutral, not-for-profit organization that promotes and maintains global standards for the identification of goods, locations and related e-commerce communication, and provides education and awareness of these global standards. Learn more at www.gs1ca.org.

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