CHeS Endorses the GLN in Health Care

On April 26, 2004 GS1 US™ (formerly the Uniform Code Council, Inc. © (UCC©) announced their plans to deploy the GLN Registry for Healthcare™ throughout the health care supply chain. Following this announcement, the Coalition for Healthcare eStandards (CHeS) endorsed the use and deployment of the GLN standards throughout the health care industry.

GS1 US is a not-for-profit organization that helps companies use open and global standards. It is initiating programs with group purchasing organizations, providers and suppliers to adopt the GLN Registry for Healthcare, a comprehensive list of over 6,600 health care facilities in North America, with corresponding GLNs.

CHeS decided to endorse the GLN Registry because:

1. The GLN, a 13-digit number used to identify a specific location, is being used throughout the world with no need for trading partners to assign proprietary numbers to ensure uniqueness. In fact, 155 other countries have already standardized on this number.

2. Over 200,000 companies already use the GLN in the U.S. The GLN is already in use in 25 other industries within the U.S. Since suppliers in these other industries also sell to health care providers, a separate standard did not seem warranted.

3. Companies like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Home Depot, Office Max, and many others require the use of the GLN for all supply chain activities.

4. Health care companies like Pfizer, Merck, Abbott, 3M, McKesson and Johnson & Johnson use the GLN as they do business in many other industries (e.g. over the counter drugs).

5. Software companies like Lawson and Peoplesoft already support its use in their MMIS products.

6. All companies are able to access the GLN Registry for Healthcare to obtain detailed facility ID information. Furthermore, companies using GLNs are allowed to share their GLN identifier with any other company.

7. Health care is not an island onto itself. It is part of the global business community so a separate standard did not seem warranted.

8. U.S. health care is better positioned to adopt the best practices of other industries if there is standardization around global standards. There are extensive benefits from better supply chain practices including those that other industries have successfully utilized for several years.