WASHINGTON DC - (June 24, 2008) - The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), the preeminent organization that advocates on behalf of healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs) announced today that the Coalition for Healthcare eStandards, a leader in the healthcare supply chain standards movement, will become a HIGPA committee beginning July 1, 2008.

HIGPA President, Curtis Rooney, sees the move as an efficient way to strengthen the role of GPOs in the industry-wide movement to adopt supply chain standards adding “CHeS is a remarkable organization that has brought the industry together to develop and promote the use of open data standards that make the healthcare system more efficient and safer for patients. With its impressive standards knowledge bank and proven track record, CHeS will make a strong addition to HIGPA's ongoing work on behalf of GPOs.” Rooney also adds, “HIGPA is also announcing its strong support for the GS1 and GDSN data standards and looks forward to working with GS1 Healthcare US as CHeS continues its important work.”

All HIGPA members and long-time members of both organizations including Novation and Premier will see immediate value in both organizations now working together under one umbrella. Joe Pleasant, Chair, CHeS Board, adds, "Becoming a committee of HIGPA is a natural next step in the progression of CHeS, and a win-win for both organizations. HIGPA will be able to leverage and advance the progress made by CHeS by ensuring the GPOs have the tools they need to drive standards implementation among their hospital members."

CHeS will legally dissolve on June 30, 2008 and immediately begin its transition into HIGPA. The move is slated to be complete at the end of 2008.

###

About HIGPA
The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 19 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, public purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HIGPA’s mission is to advocate on behalf of health care group purchasing associations, to provide educational opportunities designed to improve efficiencies in the purchase, sale and utilization of all goods and services within the health industry and to promote meaningful dialogue between GPOs. For more information, visit www.higpa.org.

About CHeS
The Coalition for Healthcare eStandards, Inc., (CHeS) is a collaborative of organizations dedicated to promoting the adoption and use of open data standards in the health care industry. Through the work of task forces, CHeS makes recommendations to accelerate industry-wide adoption of comprehensive data standards and encourages other industry representatives to participate in e-commerce standards work groups. For more information about the Coalition for Healthcare eStandards, visit www.CHeStandards.org.