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PRESS RELEASE

AHRMM Endorses GS1 Standards Sunrise Dates

CHICAGO, March 27, 2009 – The Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM) announces their support of the GS1 standards sunrise dates of 2010 for the GS1 Global Location Number (GLN) to standardize location identification and 2012 for the GS1 Global Trade Item Number® (GTIN®) to standardize product identification. GS1 standards enable the healthcare sector the ability to standardize the identification, traceability, and data synchronization of products through the supply chain.

For years, leaders representing all aspects of the healthcare supply chain worked together to identify and rally behind a common set of data standards. The industry has overwhelmingly supported GS1 standards. In an effort to put more structure around the standards movement and take next steps in industry-wide adoption and implementation, GS1 Healthcare US and its member organizations released sunrise dates for the GLN and GTIN.

"The sunrise dates are critical to global standards adoption and implementation," states Deborah Sprindzunas, AHRMM Executive Director and GS1 Healthcare US Leadership Team Member. "They provide healthcare organizations and companies with a roadmap and timeline by which to accomplish a crucial piece of standards implementation."

As the industry moves towards adoption and implementation using the sunrise dates as a guideline, AHRMM will play an active role in developing and promoting business cases, best practices, and education to help those working in the industry to effectively use standards-based solutions.

"The AHRMM Board and its membership are dedicated to the GS1 Standards movement in healthcare because we understand the impact data standards will have on improving patient safety and supply chain efficiency," said AHRMM President Jay Kirkpatrick. "I urge every supply chain professional to become educated about the GS1 standards and download the provider toolkit to ensure you have procedures in place to start transacting with trading partners using these standards by the identified sunrise dates."

For more information about GS1 standards and GS1 Healthcare US, please visit AHRMM's standards Web site at **www.standards.ahrmm.org**.

About AHRMM
The Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management is the leading national association for executives in the healthcare resource and materials management profession. A professional membership group of the American Hospital Association, AHRMM serves more than 4,000 active members. Founded in 1962, AHRMM prepares its members to contribute to the field and advance the profession through networking, education, recognition, and advocacy. For more information, visit www.ahrmm.org.

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