GS1 and IHTSDO join forces
to support safe and efficient patient care

Two complimentary global standards organisations will collaborate to ensure compatibility between their standards and promote adoption

Contact:
- Jennifer Zelmer, CEO, IHTSDO, media@ihtsdo.org
- Jan Denecker, Marketing Manager, GS1, jan.denecker@gs1.org

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM and COPENHAGEN, DENMARK, 4 August 2010 - The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO) and GS1 have announced today that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate and ensure compatibility between their respective standards systems, where appropriate.

"GS1's global standards for automatic identification (through bar codes and radio frequency identification), traceability and data synchronisation, provide the opportunity to make the Healthcare supply chain more efficient and accurate, and thus safer," said Miguel Lopera, President & CEO GS1 Global Office, "This partnership with IHTSDO will accelerate the development and adoption of global standards for sharing information among our stakeholders."

"SNOMED CT® (Systematised Nomenclature of Medicine Clinical Terms) is a clinical terminology that aims to improve patient care by supporting the accurate capture and interpretation of information about an individual's health and health services," said Jennifer Zelmer, CEO, IHTSDO. "We are convinced that the collaboration with GS1 will be to the benefit of the healthcare community by aligning global standards and joining forces to promote their appropriate use."

"A solid foundation is critical for the implementation of GS1 supply chain data and SNOMED CT® clinical terminology standards, and international co-operation will accelerate the uptake," said Paul Cressey, Chair New Zealand Universal List of Medicines Steering Group, and New Zealand Safe Medication Management Steering Group Member. "Our goal is not just to have electronic health records in New Zealand – the goal is to improve the quality of care for the patient, and global standards are important to achieving this."

GS1 and IHTSDO are both members of the Joint Initiative Council (JIC), together with ISO TC 215, CEN TC 251, HL7 and CDISC. Under the umbrella of JIC, these standards development organisations coordinate standards development efforts and work to develop interoperable and compatible standards to the benefit of the patient.

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About GS1 and GS1 Healthcare
GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply chains. GS1 is driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than six billion transactions a day with the GS1 System of Standards. GS1 is truly global, with local Member Organisations in 108 countries, with the Global Office in Brussels, Belgium.
GS1 Healthcare is a global, voluntary healthcare user group developing global standards for the healthcare supply chain and advancing global harmonisation. GS1 Healthcare consists of participants from all stakeholders of the Healthcare supply chain: manufacturers, wholesalers & distributors, as well as hospitals and pharmacy retailers. GS1 Healthcare also maintains close contacts with regulatory agencies and trade organizations worldwide.
For more information visit: www.gs1.org/healthcare.

About IHTSDO and SNOMED CT®
The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation is an international not-for-profit organisation based in Denmark. IHTSDO acquires, owns and administers the rights to SNOMED CT and other health terminologies and related standards.
SNOMED Clinical Terms® (SNOMED CT®) is a structured healthcare terminology, consisting of more than 300,000 unique medical concepts, which provides the foundation for electronic health records. SNOMED CT® is used in more than forty countries and is rapidly becoming the global standard for healthcare terminologies. SNOMED CT® was originally created by the College of American Pathologists. SNOMED CT® has been created by combining SNOMED RT and a computer based nomenclature and classification known as Clinical Terms Version 3, formerly known as Read Codes, which was created on behalf of the UK Department of Health and is Crown copyright.
For more information visit: www.ihtsdo.org/