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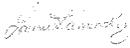
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An Urgent Message from Your Trading Partners

Survey Response Due by June 17, 2021

June 3, 2021

To our valued trading partners,

Concern for patient safety continues to reinforce the pharmacy sector's commitment to on-going advancements in achieving pharmaceutical product data accuracy in Canada. Based on the fact that medical errors remain the third leading cause of death in North America, combined with the recent pandemic exposing vulnerabilities linked to the lack of supply chain visibility capabilities, we are announcing **Project Enhanced Data Integrity for Patient Safety**.

This timely project will advance the position of **zero tolerance for errors once data reaches patient care**. As leaders in pharmacy, we are reaching out to you as our valued trading partners to explain the initiative and how to engage.

Through a collaborative approach and a unique partnership between the pharmacy community and GS1 Canada, Project Enhanced Data Integrity for Patient Safety will enable an expedited approach to securing critical pieces of your pharmaceutical data that will be captured on-site at McKesson Canada. Once the data is captured, your organization will certify its accuracy through GS1 Canada's Pharmaceutical Content solution.

Your certified content in ECCnet Pharmaceutical Content will be published to us. This data is foundational and critical to clinical and non-clinical workflows, including but not limited to:

- Inventory management
- Prescription/patient verification
- Digital health/computerized physician order entry (CPOE)
- Automated warehousing and dispensing processes
- Electronic medical record traceability precision
- Lot based recall management

Here is how the project will be executed:

The on-site capture will be conducted by GS1 Canada's Image and Validation team at McKesson Canada. The data capture process will include three elements:

➤ Image capture of all your pharmaceutical products and respective packaging levels, including:
  i. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs, behind-the-counter drugs, and natural products (NPN).
  ii. Unit of use, primary and secondary packaging levels*.

➤ Capture the weights and measures from unit-of-use all the way to the case level for each product.

➤ Conduct a barcode scan verification audit.

*Note that inclusion of all three packaging levels (unit of use, primary, secondary) is an expanded image capture requirement. Originally, only the unit of use was required. Primary and secondary packaging are equally important to the dispensing validation process, and therefore the requirements have been updated to reflect this.

You will have a role to play in two phases:

Phase I – Prepare for image and data capture
Respond to this short survey to indicate how you will make your products available during the data capture process by **June 17, 2021**. There are two options.

If you fail to provide a response by *June 17, 2021*, your images will be automatically captured according to Option 2, outlined below.

Option 1 (Preferred) – Send your product to McKesson – You will ship your product to McKesson. If you select this option, shipping instructions will be sent to you.

Option 2 – Use product from McKesson inventory – Your product will be taken out of McKesson's inventory for image and data capture. McKesson Canada will invoice you for the cost of the product used in the image capture process.

Phase II – Certification of your pharmaceutical data and images

Once your product images have been captured, you will receive a notification prompting you to certify your product images and data via ECCnet Pharmaceutical Content.

For more information about this initiative, contact GS1 Canada at 1.800.567.7084 or email info@gs1ca.org. The GS1 Canada team is available to answer any questions and discuss any special product handling requests you may have.

As a collective community, we support GS1 Canada's neutral operational model and commitment to advancing non-competitive industry issues and supporting businesses of all sizes and scale.

We are excited about how the power of barcoding automation combined with accurate data will help strengthen the foundation of patient safety and system efficiencies. We wouldn't be able to achieve this critical goal without your engaged leadership.