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HSCA ANNOUNCES ‘TOTAL VISIBILITY PROJECT’ TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY, ACCURACY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF PRODUCT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAIN

New Data Synchronization Standard to Help Ensure that Hospitals Have Immediate Access to Product Data; Suppliers to Publish set of Common Product Attributes to Global Data Synchronization Network

Washington, DC (October 16, 2014) – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association’s (HSCA) Committee for Healthcare eStandards (CHeS) today announced the launch of the *Total Visibility Project*, a data synchronization best practice for product information that will improve patient safety and efficiency in the healthcare supply chain. HSCA collaborated with GS1 and the Healthcare Industry Supply Chain Institute (HISCI) on the program, which HSCA announced today at its annual Expo in Washington. As part of the program, suppliers may publish a set of common, minimum product attributes to the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN), which will then be immediately available to GPO hospital and provider members.

“The *Total Visibility Project* will help ensure that hospitals and healthcare providers have timely access to reliable product information, and that the right product gets to the right patient at the right time,” said HSCA President Curtis Rooney. “HSCA and its group purchasing organization members serve as a critical bridge between hospitals and suppliers. Sharing product information through the *Total Visibility Project* will significantly reduce errors, duplicative labor efforts and other inefficiencies among trading partners.”

To provide hospitals access to accurate product data information, HSCA and its GPO members engage in data synchronization through the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN). The GDSN is an automated, standards-based global environment for the electronic transfer of standardized product information between trading partners. The GDSN helps enable secure, continuous data synchronization over time. The *Total Visibility Project* will enable an initial one-time publication of product data for all participating GPOs and their hospital and provider members.

To advance data synchronization and simplify the publication of product attributes, HSCA has identified the Minimum Product Attributes that all suppliers, manufacturers and GPOs providing data to the GDSN may use to fulfill HSCA member attribute requirements.

“Publication of these minimum product attributes through the *Total Visibility Project* will help promote more efficient and mutually beneficial relationships with suppliers, who will now be able work more efficiently with their data pools and GPOs and know that hospitals have immediate access to their product data,” added Rooney.

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association, formerly the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association, is a broad-based trade association that represents 14 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HSCA's mission is to advocate on behalf of healthcare 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.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter [@HSCA](https://twitter.com/HSCA).