

HUG Australasia working for patient safety



As reported in the last edition of the Supply Chain LINK newsletter (Summer 2006/2007), there has been some great progress for the healthcare industry.

GS1 is widely recognised as the leading standards organisation in global healthcare and, in 2005, companies from all areas of the Healthcare supply chain joined with GS1 to form the global GS1 Healthcare User Group (GS1 HUG™). Its aim is to lead the healthcare industry to the effective use and development of global standards focusing on automatic identification to improve patient safety.

Last year, an Australian group was formed called the GS1 Healthcare User Group Australasia (HUG). This group will provide Australian and New Zealand input into the work of the global user group and work on Australian and New Zealand-specific healthcare issues.

More than 30 hospitals, healthcare authorities, and medical products and pharmaceutical manufacturers, and distributors from Australia and New Zealand are participating. These include:

3M Australia Pty Ltd
Abbott Australasia
B Braun Australia Pty Ltd
Baxter Healthcare
BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company)
Biomet Australia
Boehringer Ingelheim Pty Ltd
Central Hospital Supplies
Clifford Hallam Healthcare
CSL Bioplasma
Dade Behring ANZ
Department of Health (South Australia)
Douglas Pharmaceuticals
Draeger Medical
Health Purchasing Victoria
Kimberly-Clark
Medical Industry Association of Australia
Medical Industry Association of NZ
National Blood Authority
NEHTA
NSW Health
Pfizer Pty Ltd
Queensland Health
Ramsay Health

Researched Medicines Industry
Smiths Medical
Southern Health
St. Jude Medical Australia Pty Ltd
Standards Australia
Taranaki District Health Board
Terumo Corporation
The Alfred Hospital
Welch Allyn Australia Pty Ltd
Wyeth Australia Pty Ltd

At a meeting in Sydney late last year, the group elected Ged Halstead, Chief Information Officer at Clifford Hallam Healthcare as chairperson. In addition, a charter of operations for the HUG Australasia was agreed upon by all attendees. Mr Halstead said: "The HUG Australasia has got off to an enthusiastic start. Our region now has a voice and channel to influence the global health supply chain with our requirements and local input."

"Our initiatives, such as the National Product Catalogue, are influencing the HUG's work plan and I am looking forward to collaborating with local health industry leaders to create the Australasian HUG work plan, by gathering like minded subject matter experts that can contribute to better supply chain outcomes in the health industry."

The last meeting of the GS1 HUG Australasia was held recently in Melbourne on March 7 with the key outcomes of the meeting being to form work group in the areas of Data Synchronisation and Product Classification. At this meeting Barry Cruickshank from NSW Health was elected as the group deputy chairperson.

The next HUG Australasia meeting is planned to be held in Sydney on July 4, 2007.

For future updates visit www.gs1au.org/hug_australasia

