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HIGPA APPLAUDS NEW GROUP PURCHASING INDUSTRY INITIATIVES TO FURTHER INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE HEALTHCARE SECTOR

Health Industry Group Purchasing Association Urges Industry Leaders to Increase Transparency Across All Healthcare Sectors

Washington, D.C. (March 11, 2010) – Curtis Rooney, President of the Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA), today issued the following statement on major initiatives to increase transparency and oversight in healthcare as a result of the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative's ([HGPII](#)) fifth annual Best Practices Forum in Washington, D.C.

“Since its inception in 2005, HGPII has played an instrumental role in developing and enforcing initiatives to increase transparency within the group purchasing industry and provide independent ethical oversight to maintain and improve GPO best practices. Healthcare GPOs across the United States continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to transparency by voluntarily enforcing the highest ethical standards in the healthcare sector.

“Transparency and accountability in the healthcare sector are essential to reducing costs for hospitals, nursing homes, and patients. HGPII’s initiatives are critical to maintaining transparency in the GPO industry and HIGPA urges other industries to implement their own policies to increase value in the healthcare supply chain and provide patients with the best care.

“In cooperation with HGPII, HIGPA is working to increase price transparency in the healthcare sector to promote competition and choice so hospitals are able to identify and purchase the best products at the highest value. GPOs help supply healthcare providers with state-of-the-art medical equipment at the highest value and save the healthcare industry as much as \$36 billion in annual price discounts. Increased competition and choice will help reduce costs, drive innovation, and enhance the quality of care for all patients.”

Formed in 2005, the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative is an independent oversight organization that promotes the highest ethical standards and practices in the health care group purchasing industry. HGPII recently announced plans to establish an independent process for healthcare suppliers to file business grievances, an independent ethics advisory panel to ensure that group purchasing organizations (GPOs) continue to comply with the highest ethical standards, and within 30 days HGPII will be issuing recommendations to improve supply chain transparency to reduce costs for hospitals, nursing homes, patients, and taxpayers.

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About HIGPA

The Health Industry Group Purchasing Association (HIGPA) is a broad-based trade association that represents 16 group purchasing organizations, including for-profit and not-for-profit corporations, purchasing groups, associations, multi-hospital systems and healthcare provider alliances. HIGPA's mission is to advocate on behalf of health care 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.higpa.org.