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**HEALTHCARE GROUP PURCHASING INDUSTRY CONVENES ANNUAL “BEST PRACTICES FORUM” TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY, INNOVATION AND HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS**

*Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative Brings Together Industry, Vendors, Third Party Experts and Ethicists for Annual Best Practices Forum in Washington*

**Washington, D.C. (July 24, 2013)** – The Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Purchasing Initiative ([HGPII](#)), an organization that promotes the highest ethical standards and practices in the health care group purchasing industry, today hosts its annual “Best Practices Forum.” The HGPII Best Practices Forum will include panel discussions on ethics and compliance, supplier diversity and promoting innovative technologies within the healthcare supply chain. This year’s forum will feature a diverse range of industry and ethics experts continuing the supply chain dialogue about transparency and accountability amid the constantly changing dynamics of the healthcare industry.

“GPOs have consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the highest ethical standards and practices and are among the most transparent and competitive industries in health care,” said HGPII Coordinator and former Representative Phil English (R-PA). “HGPII’s purpose – and the purpose of the Best Practices Forum – is to help GPOs continue to lead the way in transparency and accountability by constantly reevaluating and improving industry best practices and implementing new policies to ensure those standards are maintained and exceeded.”

HGPII is an independent, voluntary organization that was founded in 2005 as a non-profit organization by the chief executives of those healthcare GPOs who thought the industry should do more collectively to demonstrate a strong commitment to ethical values. HGPII promotes the development and improvement of accountability standards, business practices, and ethics to its customers, vendors, and the public.

“The HGPII Best Practices Forum is one of the critical ways that HGPII and its members demonstrate their commitment to a fair, open, and competitive contracting process. HGPII has also established an independent supplier grievance process through the American Arbitration Association and independent ethics advisory panel to help maintain high industry standards for quality and value,” said HGPII Co-Coordinator and former Senator Robert Bennett. “HGPII member GPOs have pledged to continue to promote best practices and inspire ethical conduct by both word and actions. Meeting these standards will require full transparency in business conduct practices with vendors and healthcare providers with whom they contract.”

“HGPII was founded on the principals of accountability, compliance and delivering high-quality, cost-effective healthcare products and services to customers. The HGPII Best Practices Forum puts those ideals into action,” said HGPII Co-Coordinator and former Senator Byron Dorgan (D-ND).

Prior to the Best Practices Forum, each of the participating GPOs are required to complete an annual Public Accountability Questionnaire detailing their business practices, which HGPII then uses to prepare an annual report to the public. HGPII has consistently found that group purchasing organizations (GPOs) maintain high ethical standards and business practices that promote innovation, transparency in the bidding process, and compliance. The entire report, which details the extensive and objective assessment of the GPO industry, can be viewed on the HGPII website, [www.healthcaregpoi.com](http://www.healthcaregpoi.com). The eighth annual report to the public will be released later this year.

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### **Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative**

Founded in 2005, the Healthcare Group Purchasing Industry Initiative ([HGPII](http://www.healthcaregpoi.com)) is an organization that promotes and monitors the best ethical and business practices in purchasing for hospitals and other healthcare providers. The goal of the Initiative is to assure ongoing adherence to ethical conduct and business practices, and to hold the confidence of the public and the government in the integrity of the GPO industry. Each GPO has committed to the Initiative at the highest level and adheres to a strict code of ethical conduct. The governing body of the Initiative is comprised of the nine founding GPO Chief Executive Officers, who serve as a Steering Committee to set the Initiative’s policies and programs.