



ECRx STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE DECISIONS

*The following update is based on the results of the January 17, 2002
ECRx Stakeholder Committee meeting.*

COMPANIES SUPPLYING TO THE PHARMACY CHANNEL HAVE UNTIL MAY 31, 2002 TO LOAD THEIR DATA INTO ECCnet

The pharmacy industry has set May 31, 2002 as the deadline for suppliers to load their data into the ECCnet database. Members of the ECRx (Efficient Consumer Response for the Pharmacy Supply Chain) initiative agreed that this deadline is an appropriate target to keep the pharmacy channel in-line with the deployment of ECCnet within the Canadian retail industry. 15 major retailers and distributors have confirmed their intent to utilize the database, and 87% of grocery manufacturers have already loaded their data.

ECCnet is Canada's multi-industry, on-line product database to ensure electronic data integrity by providing a single, standardized record of product details for electronic communications. Simply put, manufacturers will load in their product information only once, and retailers will automatically receive data as updates occur.

The following retailers are committed to using ECCnet. They will be in contact with their trading partners to communicate their terms and timelines for roll-out within their organizations.

Be aware that some of these retailers/pharmacy distributors may set implementation dates sooner than the ECRx stated deadline.

A. de la Chevrotiere Ltee
Canada Safeway Ltd.
Co-op Atlantic
Federated Co-operatives Ltd.
H.Y. Louie Co. Ltd.
Lanzarotta Wholesale Grocers Ltd.
Le Groupe Jean Coutu
Loblaw Companies Ltd.
London Drugs
Metro Richelieu 2000 Inc.
Medis Health & Pharmaceutical Services Inc.
Serca Foodservice
Shoppers Drug Mart Inc.
Sobeys Canada
The Great Atlantic & Pacific Company (A&P)

ECRx recommends that you choose an ECCnet Catalogue Captain for your company and have them attend an ECCnet seminar to find out more. For more information, visit www.eccnet.org, or contact Paul Osland of the Electronic Commerce Council – paulo@eccc.org – (416) 510-8039 ext. 2219.

TRACKING CUSTOMER SERVICE LEVELS WITHIN THE PHARMACY SUPPLY CHAIN

To facilitate communications and support improvements of customer service levels between pharmacy distributors and suppliers, the ECRx initiative will conduct benchmarking audits and develop an industry scorecard. The ECRx Enabler Committee will be tasked with developing these projects. Special thanks to Claudio Bussandri, President & CEO of Medis Health & Pharmaceutical Services inc. for offering his warehouse to conduct the audits.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE INTERNET ON EDI ACTIVITY?

If yes, you're not alone and the ECRx Committee recognizes that. With the many advancements and opportunities the Internet offers, many are wondering how it will impact on EDI. There are many positive developments (EDIINT) that will not only create a more efficient process, but also open the door to smaller companies that have not yet adopted EDI because of the resource demands required. To keep everyone up to speed, ECRx will provide education and communications. As well, industry surveys will be conducted to track the adoption levels of the various EDI transaction sets.

RETAILERS, PHARMACY DISTRIBUTORS AND MANUFACTURERS ARE URGED TO READY THEIR SYSTEMS FOR THE NEW GTIN STRUCTURE

ECRx is raising awareness about the universal standard GTIN (Global Trade Identification Number) structure that is going live in 2005. North American retailers, pharmacy distributors and manufacturers will need to adjust databases to accommodate the new 14 digit structure – a current requirement for those already storing SCC14s for cases. Bar codes remain exactly the same as they are on today's packages, but the code it represents should be housed in your system as a 14-digit structure, zero-filling the first two left positions. Importers will no longer need to apply for North American 12-digit codes as all participating countries will recognize the universal standard GTIN structure. More information is available on the ecc.org website.

Rx & OTC RETURNED GOODS/UNSALEABLES INITIATIVE SECURES FUNDING FOR PILOT PROJECT

The vision of simplifying the process of managing returned goods and unsaleables for pharmaceuticals and Over-the-Counter drugs is going to the test. Funding for the "One Box" pilot project has been secured and the ECRx Stakeholder Committee has approved the fact-finding mission.

In a snap-shot, the "One Box" solution is based on the concept that returned goods/unsaleables are placed in a designated box located in the pharmacy and forwarded to a centralized service provider for verification and processing. The provider then issues payment to the "returnee" with returns data. Goods are disposed of as per manufacturer instructions and applicable disposal laws.

We will keep you posted as the pilot takes flight.

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