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HEALTHCARE GROUP PURCHASING ORGANIZATIONS (GPOs) TAKING STEPS TO HELP HOSPITALS, HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS COMBAT EBOLA VIRUS

New Survey Details Measures GPOs Have Proactively Adopted to Help Hospitals Address Ebola Preparedness and Treatment

Washington, DC (November 18, 2014) – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association ([HSCA](#)) today announced the findings of a membership survey detailing the actions that healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs) are taking to help hospitals, healthcare providers and suppliers prepare to treat the Ebola virus. All GPOs surveyed, including the five largest GPOs, reported taking action to help increase hospital and healthcare provider preparedness.

“GPOs are the sourcing and purchasing partners to virtually all American hospitals, and HSCA-member GPOs are each taking innovative, proactive steps to ensure that hospitals are fully equipped to handle Ebola-related issues,” said HSCA President Curtis Rooney. “From disseminating information on product availability and alternate product sourcing to governmental agency collaboration and 24/7 emergency support, GPOs are committed to enhancing supply chain preparedness so that hospitals can focus on treating and preventing the spread of this disease.”

Specific steps taken by GPOs to respond to hospital need and to help address the Ebola virus have included:

- **Increased communication** with members and suppliers to identify **product availability** and any **potential shortages** of supplies;
- Establishment of **24/7 emergency command center**;
- Development of an **Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever Clinical Resource Guide**, which includes guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO);
- **Around-the-clock monitoring** of national situation;
- **Collaboration with relevant government agencies** at the Federal, state and municipal levels.

In addition, all or multiple GPOs surveyed reported taking the following steps to help address the public health threat of Ebola:

- Creating a **centralized response system**;

- Conducting **full-scale exercises of emergency management programs**;
- Working to ensure access to “**just-in-time**” **supply chain products and services**;
- Working with suppliers to **identify product shortages** or delays and with wholesalers and distributors to **identify products in warehouses and potential shortfalls**;
- Keeping members and customers **updated on current CDC guidelines**;
- Assessing and **augmenting existing preparedness programs**;
- Serving as a **clearinghouse of product information, educational programs and treatment protocols**;

“Emergency situations such as the recent Ebola crisis and the surge in demand for personal protective equipment following the change in the CDC’s baseline protection recommendations highlight the important role that GPOs play in helping to ensure access to critical products and services for healthcare workers,” added Rooney.

To learn more about HSCA and its GPO members, click [here](#).

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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](#).