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HEALTHCARE SUPPLY CHAIN ASSOCIATION JOINS END DRUG SHORTAGE ALLIANCE TO SAFEGUARD ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL MEDICATIONS

Coalition of Cross-Industry Stakeholders to Collaborate on Supply Transparency and Resiliency Initiatives

Washington, DC (October 12, 2022) – The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (<u>HSCA</u>), which represents the nation's leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), today announced it has joined a new coalition of diverse stakeholders to address drug shortages in the United States. The <u>End Drug Shortages Alliance</u> provides a forum for key stakeholders to take strategic aim at one of healthcare's more pressing and enduring issues, drug shortages that disrupt patient care.

"Healthcare GPOs are critical partners helping hospitals and the healthcare system avert and mitigate the impact of drug shortages and have helped reduce the number of shortages by half over the last decade. The Healthcare Supply Chain Association is proud to join the End Drug Shortage Alliance alongside many of our member GPOs and looks forward to working with the coalition to identify durable solutions to drug shortages and protect patient access to care," said HSCA President and CEO Todd Ebert.

GPOs have taken a number of innovative steps to combat drug and product shortages, including:

- Tracking global supply data on shortages and raw materials to identify potential supply chain disruptions,
- Evaluating manufacturer reliability when sourcing and awarding contracts to lessen exposure to shortages,
- Identifying additional manufacturers and sources of at-risk products and helping bring them to market and,
- Assessing operationally and clinically safe conservation strategies and alternatives for providers.

The End Drug Shortages Alliance was launched in late 2021 to bring together industry stakeholders, including providers, group purchasing organizations, manufacturers, distributors, and other industry thought leaders and champions. Efforts will focus on improving access to medications through greater transparency across market participants, leading to improved quality manufacturing of medications and production of additional supply. Learn more at EndDrugShortages.com.

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About the Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA)

The Healthcare Supply Chain Association (HSCA) represents the nation's leading healthcare group purchasing organizations (GPOs), which are critical cost-savings partners to America's hospitals, nursing homes, nursing home pharmacies, clinics, home healthcare providers and surgery centers. GPOs deliver billions in savings annually to healthcare providers, Medicare and Medicaid, and taxpayers. HSCA and its member GPOs are committed to delivering the best products at the best value to healthcare providers, to increasing competition and innovation in the market, and to being supply chain leaders in transparency and accountability. For more information, visit www.supplychainassociation.org. Follow HSCA on Twitter @HSCA.

About End Drug Shortages Alliance

The End Drugs Shortages Alliance is a collaboration of select health systems, supply chain, industry and other stakeholders including group purchasing organizations, manufacturers, distributors and other industry thought leaders dedicated to solving the pharmaceutical supply challenges that disrupt access to essential medications in the U.S. We prioritize initiatives focused on transparency, quality, redundancy and production of additional supply to achieve undisrupted access to essential medications for health care providers and patients.