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**Amerinet Takes Leadership Role To Standardize Healthcare Supply Chain**

St. Louis, Mo. (August 1, 2008) Amerinet today affirmed its commitment to proactively partner with its customers – both providers and suppliers - to adopt and continue to implement GS1 healthcare standards with a focus on driving costs out of the supply chain. GS1 is an organization that is responsible for the design and implementation of global standards to improve efficiency and visibility in supply and demand chains.

Amerinet's announcement comes on the heels of the recent Association for Healthcare Resource & Materials Management (AHRMM) conference in San Antonio, where GS1 Healthcare experts expounded on how such standards as Global Location Number (GLN), Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) and Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) will dramatically improve the group purchasing industry.

According to GS1 and AHRMM, the standards are defined as:

- ▶ **GLN** – a 13-digit number in which the associated name, address and class of trade are tied to each unique number and is specific to only one exact and very precise location in the world.
- ▶ **GTIN** a 14-digit number (similar to a U.P.C. symbol) that is used for product identification.
- ▶ **GDSN** – an automated, standards-based global environment that enables secure and continuous data synchronization, permitting all trading partners to have consistent item data in their respective systems at the same time.

“Amerinet has been and continues to be a leader in helping to bring the U.S. healthcare industry into compliance with this proven business practice, which has been successfully used for decades in the retail, grocery and electronic industries,” said Mary Beth Lang, Amerinet's senior vice president, business intelligence and spend analytics. “For instance, we proactively funded and obtained GLNs for all of our members three years ago and are now working with suppliers to begin using GLNs and GTINs over the next few years. We also have completed a successful GDSN pilot with the Department of Defense.”

Lang said GS1 is member driven, so Amerinet has been proactively providing education, including direct communication with suppliers encouraging them to take ownership of their GLNs. As a leading national healthcare group purchasing organization, Amerinet was involved in all GS1-related session development at the AHRMM conference and has been part of all GS1 standards and communication committees, she said.

“Amerinet believes that helping providers remove the inefficiencies related to data management through the adoption of the GS1 standards must become an industry imperative,” Lang said.

Brent Johnson, vice president of supply chain, CPO at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, an Amerinet customer, said implementing GS1 standards will prove a defining moment for the future of the healthcare industry and serve as a linchpin toward Intermountain’s goals of providing patients the highest quality of care at the lowest possible cost.

“We have been working very closely with Amerinet to develop these uniform standards for our system of hospitals, surgery centers, doctors and clinics,” Johnson said. “We believe that Amerinet is uniquely positioned to influence the supplier community and bring about this critically important initiative. Together, we will meet our mutual objective of eliminating errors and inefficiencies in the supply chain.”

### **About Amerinet Inc.**

Through Total Spend Management Solutions, Amerinet strategically partners with healthcare providers to improve operating margins by creating efficiencies, reducing costs and identifying new revenue streams.

Supported by a team of clinical, data and supply chain experts, Amerinet offers a suite of tools, programs and services including a comprehensive and competitive portfolio that delivers practical solutions to address members’ specific needs.

Based in St. Louis with offices in Salt Lake City, Providence, R.I., and Warrendale, Pa., Amerinet serves acute and non-acute healthcare providers nationwide. To learn more, visit [www.amerinet-gpo.com](http://www.amerinet-gpo.com).