

Healthcare Transformation Group

July 11, 2013

*News Release from Geisinger, Intermountain Healthcare,
Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic and Mercy*

Healthcare Transformation Group Hands Out First Supplier Award, Outlines Future Initiatives

ST. LOUIS – The Healthcare Transformation Group (HTG) presented Cook Medical with the inaugural HTG Excellence Award during the group’s third Summit, held May 29 and May 30 at Intermountain Healthcare in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Representatives from each of the five HTG health systems -- Geisinger, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic and Mercy – were joined by healthcare suppliers and other key industry stakeholders. The HTG Excellence award honors a supplier who serves as a leader in the adoption of GS1 Standards.

“Having scored the highest on the HTG Supplier Scorecard, Cook Medical’s commitment to patient safety and their focus on GS1 Standards adoption helped set them apart to receive this recognition,” explained Laurel Junk, Vice President, Supply Chain, Kaiser Permanente and Chair of the HTG.

“Cook adopted GS1 Standards in an effort to improve patient safety, make it easier to track products in the supply chain, and lower the costs of healthcare,” said David Reed, Vice President of Healthcare Business Solutions, Cook Medical. “The recent HTG Summit made it possible to envision a future when everyone uses these standards.”

At the Summit, the HTG focused on progress made toward the adoption of GS1 Standards in healthcare. “The progress we’ve seen demonstrated by our top 20 suppliers is encouraging,” said Curtis Dudley, Vice President of Integrated Performance Solutions, Mercy. “It’s obvious that GS1 Standards adoption has become less of a question of ‘if’ and more of a question of ‘when.’”

Several suppliers, including Boston Scientific, Abbott and Cook Medical, shared lessons learned through their adoption of GS1 Standards. “The information shared during these sessions helped other vendors see how best to adopt the standards,” said Deb Templeton, Chief of Care Support Services, Geisinger Health System.

The HTG also released the next three initiatives for the group:

- Creating an industry item master list, which would allow providers to access information on all medical products through a universally accessible database;
- Exploring methods of automated product identification (bar coding, RFID and optical product recognition) in order to define a recommendation for use within the healthcare industry; and,

- Identifying different methods of information exchange to help define an approach for providers to present and exchange data.

Dudley added, “The HTG is looking to work with manufacturers and develop industry partnerships in the future to achieve these goals. While the HTG has been very focused on GS1 Standards adoption during the first few years, and that will continue to be a major focus, our members are hoping we can also provide a forum for these other future topics to be explored.”

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About the Healthcare Transformation Group (HTG)

In 2010, five healthcare systems — [Geisinger Health System](#), [Intermountain Healthcare](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Mayo Clinic](#) and [Mercy](#) — formed an action-oriented collaboration to share best practices and drive needed positive change across the healthcare supply chain. The collaboration, called the [Healthcare Transformation Group \(HTG\)](#), evolved as an extension of each member’s involvement in healthcare’s movement toward standards adoption. HTG members share this common foundation: accelerate change across the supply chain, enhance patient safety, improve supply chain efficiencies, drive the adoption of [GS1 Standards](#) with suppliers, and communicate in the marketplace through one voice.