Medication Safety Leaders Begin
Development of Oncology Medication Self Assessment

Horsham, Pa.---The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), ISMP Canada, and the International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) today announced that they will begin development of a new self-assessment tool to help hospitals and ambulatory cancer centers throughout the world evaluate oncology medication safety.

Chemotherapy agents used in cancer treatment are considered "high-alert" drugs, which are more likely to cause patient harm when involved in an error. The self assessment will help healthcare organizations examine the use of these medications by evaluating practices and processes related to patient information, communication, environment, and other key elements of safe medication use.

As with ISMP's previous self-assessments, healthcare organizations will be asked to convene multidisciplinary teams to complete the survey and submit data confidentially through a secure web-based form. Respondents will then be able to compare their results with aggregate data from other demographically similar organizations.

An international group of safety experts will be organized to assist with the development, design, and launch of the assessment, which is scheduled for early 2011.

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The Institute for Safe Medication Practices
The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) is an independent, nonprofit charitable organization that works closely with healthcare practitioners and institutions, regulatory agencies, consumers, and professional organizations to provide education about medication errors and their prevention. ISMP represents more than 35 years of experience in helping healthcare practitioners keep patients safe, and continues to lead efforts to improve the medication use process. ISMP is a federally certified patient safety organization (PSO), providing healthcare practitioners and organizations with the highest level of legal protection and confidentiality for patient safety data and error reports they submit to the Institute. For more information on ISMP, or its medication safety alert newsletters and other tools for healthcare professionals and consumers, visit www.ismp.org.

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada
The Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) is an independent national not-for-profit agency committed to the advancement of medication safety in all health care settings. ISMP Canada works collaboratively with the healthcare community, regulatory agencies and policy makers, provincial, national, and international patient safety organizations, the pharmaceutical industry, and the public to promote safe medication practices. ISMP Canada's mandate includes receiving and analyzing medication incident and near-miss reports, identifying contributing factors and causes and making recommendations for prevention. For more information, visit www.ismp-canada.org.

International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners
The International Society of Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners (ISOPP) was founded in 1988 and incorporated in 1996 as a not-for-profit society. ISOPP promotes and enhances oncology pharmacy practice worldwide in order to improve cancer patient care with over 40 countries represented in its membership. The *Journal of Oncology Pharmacy Practice* (JOPP) is the official publication of ISOPP. Research, standards, education and publication are key activities that support ISOPP's purpose. For more information on ISOPP, visit www.isopp.org.

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