

Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies Laud HHS Rules that Increase Opportunities for the Independent Pharmacy

ST. LOUIS – January 21, 2005 – “We believe in the local pharmacy’s ability to render unmatched service quality and responsiveness to patients,” stated Terry Burnside President of Medicine Shoppe. “It appears the new HHS policies will foster increased opportunities for local pharmacies and removes many impediments to their meeting the needs of nursing home and assisted living patients.” “Furthermore, the rules appear to recognize the unique role and opportunity the local provider has in rendering unparalleled service quality and care to this fast growing patient population.”

About Medicine Shoppe International, Inc.

Medicine Shoppe International, Inc. (MSI) (www.medicineshoppe.com), a Cardinal Health Company, is distinguished for its commitment to providing expert, personalized health care. Medicine Shoppe International is the largest franchisor of independent community pharmacies in the U.S. with nearly 1,000 Medicine Shoppe® Pharmacies domestically and more than 330 pharmacies in seven other countries. In 2003, Medicine Shoppe International acquired Medicap Pharmacies Incorporated (www.medicap.com), which franchises independent community pharmacies in the U.S. under the trade name “Medicap Pharmacy®.” There are over 180 Medicap Pharmacy locations in 34 states.

About Cardinal Health

Cardinal Health, Inc. (www.cardinalhealth.com) is the leading provider of products and services supporting the health care industry. Cardinal Health develops, manufactures, packages and markets products for patient care; develops drug-delivery technologies; distributes pharmaceuticals and medical, surgical and laboratory supplies; and offers consulting and other services that improve quality and efficiency in health care. Headquartered in Dublin, Ohio, Cardinal Health employs more than 55,000 people on six continents and produces annual revenues of more than \$65 billion.

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