December 3, 2013

Dear Valued Customer,

This communication provides information regarding an important update to the part number and bar code standard used on all Boston Scientific product labeling. As part of our continuing efforts to meet customer expectations and improve supply chain efficiency, we are transitioning Boston Scientific labeling from the current Health Industry Bar Code (HIBC) standard to the GS1 Healthcare standard.

The GS1 system is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world with utilization across numerous industries. It utilizes a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) that uniquely identifies devices that are traded in the supply chain. The GTIN, as well as other key product attributes, are contained in the GS1 bar code which can be scanned to automate the capture of this data.

If you are currently scanning Boston Scientific’s HIBC bar codes or are planning on implementing bar code scanning, you need to ensure that your systems are capable of handling GTINs and GS1 bar codes. A detailed cross-reference list that shows the current Boston Scientific HIBC UPN and corresponding GTIN may be found at http://www.bostonscientific.com/gs1.

The transition to GS1 GTINs and bar codes will begin in January 2014 and continue in phases across all divisions of Boston Scientific with completion targeted by the end of 2014. Please note that our Cardiac Rhythm Management (CRM) products already utilize GTINs and the GS1 system. As such, there will be no change to the existing part numbers and/or bar codes for these products.

We are committed to helping you with this change and encourage you to contact us with questions or requests for support at (800) 345-2498 or GS1CustomerInquiries@bsci.com.

We thank you in advance for sharing this information with appropriate individuals in your hospital.

Sincerely,

Luci DeRosa
Director, Customer Service
Boston Scientific Corporation