

---

## SUPPLIER NEWS BREAKS

---

### PharmaSmart, AstraZeneca ally on Rx hypertension program

December 29th, 2009

ROCHESTER, N.Y. – PharmaSmart International Inc. has teamed up with AstraZeneca Canada to deliver tools and programs to pharmacists, doctors and patients for the improved management of hypertension.

The blood pressure screening systems manufacturer said the partnership positions community pharmacy at the front lines of disease state management and will involve a select group of Canadian retail pharmacy participants. More details are upcoming, PharmaSmart added.

"Hypertension is the No. 1 contributor to premature death in North America. By combining our technology and programs with the strength and expertise of companies like AstraZeneca Canada, we can better combat this deadly disease," Ashton Maaraba, senior vice president and general manager of global sales and operations at PharmaSmart, said in a statement. "This program launch is the result of hard work by both the PharmaSmart and AstraZeneca Canada teams, as well as the vision and commitment of the select retail partners."

Josh Sarkis, senior vice president and general manager of strategic business development at PharmaSmart, noted that it's widely acknowledged that chronic diseases like hypertension are best managed with the help of community-based health professionals.

"By providing pharmacists with innovative technology, patient tools and educational support, we believe that we can help today's pharmacy achieve its full potential in terms of managing the hypertensive patient," Sarkis commented. "We are extremely pleased to be partnering with AstraZeneca Canada and our retail partners in a program that will accelerate this important evolution in pharmacy-based health care."

PharmaSmart said its products and services are used by pharmacies, work sites and health clinics across North America, administering more than 65 million blood tests annually.