Global Healthcare User Group

GS1 Healthcare – Improving patient safety worldwide

GS1 Healthcare

GS1 Healthcare is a voluntary, global Healthcare user community bringing together all Healthcare stakeholders: pharmaceutical and medical devices manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, group purchasing organisations, hospitals, pharmacies, logistics providers, governmental and regulatory bodies and associations.

Mission & Vision

The mission of GS1 Healthcare is to lead the Healthcare sector to the successful development and implementation of global standards by bringing together experts in healthcare to enhance patient safety and supply chain efficiencies.

The vision of GS1 Healthcare is to become the recognised, open and neutral source for regulatory agencies, trade organisations and other similar stakeholders seeking input and direction for global standards in Healthcare for patient safety, supply chain security & efficiency, traceability and accurate data synchronisation.

GS1 Standards in Healthcare

- **GS1 Identification Keys:** numbering schemes for products, locations, patients, caregivers and assets

- **GS1 BarCodes:** several types of bar codes, linear and 2-dimensional, for use with GS1 identification numbers depending on the application

- **GS1 EPCglobal:** supporting the use of EPC (Electronic Product Code) / RFID (radio frequency identification)

- **GS1 GDSN™:** ensuring synchronised and accurate product data across supply chain partners

- **GS1 eCOM:** supporting EDI (electronic data interchange) technologies

Global Standards development

GS1 Healthcare is a global Healthcare user group created to further develop existing GS1 Standards to meet the specific needs of Healthcare. The group works toward the implementation of an approved roadmap.

Through various work teams, GS1 facilitates the global standards development process.

Global and local reach

The Healthcare sector is by nature global with medical products often crossing borders. The GS1 System of Standards is inherently global.

Local Healthcare user groups have also been established in

various countries around the world. These groups ensure that specific local requirements are taken into account when creating global standards. They also promote and support local adoption and implementation of such standards.

GS1 Healthcare user groups

Joining the global or local Healthcare user group allows you to voice your requirements in the standards development process. It also allows you to remain informed about automatic identification and standardisation in Healthcare around the world.

Many leading companies and institutions have already joined the GS1 Healthcare user community. For example, the 2007 combined Leadership Team included both manufacturers (such as Abbott Laboratories, Alcon Laboratories, Baxter, B.Braun, Covidien, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Merck and Pfizer), and hospitals, pharmacy retailers, distributors and Group Purchasing Organisations (such as Amerisource Bergen, Comparatio, CVS, McKesson, Premier and Walgreens). See **www.gs1.org/healthcare** for a list of members.

Join GS1 Healthcare to work toward a safer and more efficient Healthcare supply chain. Visit **www.gs1.org/healthcare** for details.

What about HUG and HLS?

GS1 Healthcare is merging two GS1 user communities:

- GS1 global Healthcare User Group (GS1 HUG™), established in 2005

- EPCglobal Healthcare & Life Science Industry Action Group, established in 2004 and working specifically on EPC/RFID

GS1 Healthcare covers the full spectrum of GS1 standards development in Healthcare.

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GS1 Standards in Healthcare

What's in it for me?

GS1 Standards in Healthcare

- Improve patient safety
- Enable global traceability
- Improve supply chain efficiency

Ensure the 5 patient rights

The *right* product for the *right* patient in the *right* dose at the *right* time by the *right* route.

Automatic identification technologies, using bar codes or radio frequency identification (RFID), help ensure the 5 patient rights.

Hospitals that have implemented automatic identification systems at the point of care, e-prescription systems, or robotic dispensing systems have reported a significant improvement in patient safety:

- The Topeka VA Medical Center (U.S.) has implemented bar coding systems for medication administration and reported a reduction of its medication error rate by 86%.
- Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust (U.K.) introduced a robotic dispensing system in May 2003 and reported that dispensing errors were reduced by 67% from 2.7% to 0.9% of prescriptions.

Combat counterfeiting

Counterfeit medical products are a risk to public health. It is often impossible for patients and even Healthcare professionals, such as pharmacists, to spot counterfeit drugs. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates 10% of all drugs worldwide to be counterfeit. Counterfeiting is a problem in developing countries and all over the world.

The Healthcare supply chain is vulnerable to counterfeiting because of its lack of transparency. Automatic identification technologies enable global traceability and authentication systems. The introduction of a unique identification for drugs or medical device, where appropriate, will enable authentication and traceability systems that will make it much more difficult for counterfeiters to intrude into the Healthcare supply chain.

Enable traceability

Traceability helps combat counterfeiting, permits effective and efficient product recall, and allows products to be tracked throughout the Healthcare facility. A pilot at the CHU Dijon Hospital (France) implementing automatic identification systems, based on GS1 Standards, tracked containers throughout the hospital and resulted in a better usage of the container park at reduced cost thanks, due to the availability of real time information (less errors and better allocation of resources).

Improve supply chain efficiency

Automatic identification results in more efficient and effective Healthcare supply chain processes, including:

- Optimised receiving

- Reduced inventory

- Increased productivity

- Improved product recall

- Improved shelf management

- Improved service levels/fill rate

- Improved benchmarking and management
  of supply cost

For example, one U.K. trust deploying a robotic dispensing system achieved a 34% reduction in time spent in the dispensary for pharmacists and 51% for technicians, resulting in far more time to be spent working directly with patients and staff.

St. Alexius Hospital (Bismarck, U.S.) introduced automatic identification systems, which allowed them to reduce inventory by US$2.4 million.

Global Standards

The Healthcare supply chain today is global. Global standards are needed to enable the efficient and effective implementation of automatic identification systems throughout the Healthcare supply chain. This will ensure global reach and full interoperability.

GS1 Standards in Healthcare

GS1 Standards are global, open and proven.

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About GS1 and GS1 Healthcare

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply chains. GS1 is driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than five billion transactions a day with the GS1 System of Standards. This makes it the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

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For more information, visit: **www.gs1.org/healthcare**

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