



# Standards Save Lives: GS1 in Healthcare

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The global language of business

[www.gs1.org](http://www.gs1.org)



## What is GS1?



**The global  
language of  
business**

**GS1** is a not-for-profit organisation that develops global standards for the identification of goods and services.

- **30** years of experience
- **104** member organisations
- Representing **all points** in the supply chain
- Over a **million** companies doing business across **140** countries
- Over **20** represented sectors: FMCG, healthcare, transport, customs, defence...
- Over **5 billion** transactions a day

**GS1 is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.**



## GS1 Standards

*Helping the healthcare supply chain*

By contributing to **patient safety** and **supply chain efficiency**, we believe that deploying **GS1** standards in the healthcare industry can help to ensure the **Five Patient Rights**.

### **Five Patient Rights**

Right Patient

Right Drug/Device

Right Time

Right Dose

Right Route



# GS1 in the Healthcare Sector

## *Vision and Mission*

### Our Vision

Lead the healthcare industry to the effective utilisation and development of global standards, with the primary focus on **automatic identification** to **improve patient safety**.

### Our Mission

To be the **single source** for **regulatory agencies and trade organisations** (manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, hospitals and pharmacies) to seek input and direction for **global standards in the healthcare industry**.



# GS1

## Leading the way in healthcare standards



The global language of business.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM/LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, August 2006

### Global Healthcare User Group chooses GS1 as sole system of standards in healthcare

The GS1 HUG™ is a voluntary and open group formed by 40 leading pharmaceutical and medical devices companies, wholesalers, hospitals and trade associations from around the world. The HUG's primary objective is to enhance patient safety worldwide through accurate and standardised product identification.

Accurate product identification is crucial to patient safety in three key aspects:

- avoiding medication errors by ensuring that the right drug is delivered to the right patient
- preventing the use of counterfeit drugs and medical devices
- allowing the traceability of medical products

After one year of successful operation of the GS1 HUG™, HUG officially announced on 26 July 2006 that it will use GS1 standards exclusively as the basis for its automatic product identification developments (Bar Codes and Radio Frequency Identification Product Tags). Over the course of the next 18 months the HUG members will continue to further promote the existing GS1 standards for their application and implementation, in the healthcare sector.



While the primary focus is on developing global standards for automatic product identification, the HUG will also be working on other topics e.g. serialisation, medical catalogues, data synchronisation, classification and e-commerce, to make the healthcare systems safer and more efficient worldwide

The two co-chairs of the GS1 HUG™ expressed their satisfaction at this achievement. Volker Zeinar, B.Braun, commented, "The organization of the HUG, the engagement of the members and their willingness to share expertise are the

**“The Global Healthcare User Group, a voluntary and open group formed by 40 leading pharmaceutical and medical device companies, wholesalers, hospitals and trade associations, chooses GS1 as their sole system of standards in healthcare.”**

**August 2006  
Press Release**

**GS1 has embraced the healthcare sector.  
The healthcare sector has embraced GS1.**



# GS1

## Leading the way in healthcare standards



DH Department of Health

**Coding for Success**  
*Simple technology for safer patients care*

### Summary

This document describes bar-coding and similar coding technologies, and the impact they could have on healthcare. There is evidence of real improvements in patient safety when coding systems are used to match patients to their care – fewer medication errors, a reduced risk of wrong-site surgery, a more accurate track and trace of surgical instruments, equipment and other devices, and much better record keeping. Using coding to manage supplies and purchasing electronically can cut costs dramatically as well as improving efficiency.

The medicines and medical device industries have already made significant progress on coding products to voluntary standards. Benefits for industry include effective track and trace, and supply chain efficiency; coding is also a weapon in the fight against counterfeit products.

The case for coding is compelling, but all stakeholders need to work to commonly agreed standards if the benefits are to be realised fully. The Department of Health is recommending that the GS1 System should be adopted throughout the healthcare system in England, both for manufactured products and for coding systems used within healthcare settings, such as patient identification codes on wristbands.

This policy position is backed by an action plan to support both the NHS and the medicines and device industries in realising the benefits for patients. It will include:

- membership of GS1 for all NHS organisations, with demonstration projects and further support to help organisations implement the technology locally;
- further encouragement to the medicines and device industries to code products supplied to the NHS using the GS1 System; and
- engagement in the GS1 Healthcare User Group, which is reviewing the GS1 System to ensure it meets the needs of healthcare providers and manufacturers worldwide.

At this stage, the Department of Health believes that coding standards should be developed and applied on a voluntary rather than a mandatory basis. The GS1 organisation develops coding standards in consultation with its members. The NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency will work with industry to apply these standards to healthcare products. The Department of Health and its agencies, including Commissioning for Health, the National Patient Safety Agency and the Information Standards Board, will provide guidance and support to the NHS to help it implement coding schemes locally. This is not just about

**“The Department of Health is recommending that the GS1 System should be adopted throughout the healthcare system in England [...] and presents an action plan calling for engagement in GS1 Healthcare User Group.”**

**February 2007**  
**Policy Guidance Document**  
**UK Department of Health**

**GS1 has embraced the healthcare sector.  
The healthcare sector has embraced GS1.**



GS1

*Leading the way in healthcare standards*

**Today, GS1 standards are used for the identification of pharmaceutical products in 60 countries around the world.**

***GS1 has embraced the healthcare sector.  
The healthcare sector has embraced GS1.***



# GS1 is involved with the healthcare sector

## Pharmaceutical Companies

- Alcon Laboratories
- Amgen
- Astra Zeneca
- Baxter
- Behring
- B.Braun
- Boehringer Ingelheim
- Cephalon
- GSK
- Johnson & Johnson Pharma
- Merck
- Merck Germany
- Novartis
- Pfizer
- Procter&Gamble
- Sanofi Aventis
- Wyeth

## Wholesalers

- Cardinal Health
- Celesio
- CERP
- Grupo Cofares
- Farmintesa-Secof
- McKesson
- Owen Minor
- Pharmdata
- Phoenix

## Medical Device Manufacturers

- 3M
- Aesculap/B.Braun
- Alcon Laboratories
- Baxter
- Boston Scientific
- B.Braun
- Cook
- DePuy/J&J
- Hospira
- Johnson & Johnson MD
- Medtronic
- Olympus Medical Systems
- Pall Medical
- Smiths Medical
- Terumo
- Tyco Healthcare

## Hospitals & GPOs

- Marienhospital Herne
- Premier
- University Hospital of Dijon
- University Hospital of Lyon
- University Hospital of Leeds
- University Hospital of Geneva
- Comparatio German University Hospital group
- Chelsea & Westminster NHS Hospital, London
- University of Tokyo

## Transport & Logistics Firms

- Exel
- Aexxdis

## Associations

- AdvaMed (US Association of Medical Device Manufacturers)
- Eucomed (European Associations of Medical Device Manufacturers and National Associations)
- EGA (European Generic Medicines Association)
- IHF – International Hospital Federation

## Regulatory Bodies

- PHAC (Public Health Agency of Canada)
- NHS (National Health Service) – CfH (Connection for Health)
- FDA – Food and Drug Administration
- Ministry of Health New Zealand
- Ministry of Health UK

*...and more!*



# Overall Focus: Improving Patient Safety

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## Prevent Medical Errors

Encode the unit dose or unit of use package to enable **automated verification** to ensure right dose or device, for the right patient at the right time.

## Enable Product Authentication

Utilize a GS1 data structure to enable **authentication** of individual packages, cases or pallets.

## Enable Tracking and Tracing

Utilize a GS1 data structure, work with supply chain trading partners to enable an **electronic pedigree** for individual packages such that in the event of a counterfeiting incident, tracing of the suspect product can occur.

## Increase Total Supply Chain Efficiency

Through greater **visibility, accuracy and velocity**.



## Working globally on Auto-ID

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- Requirements have been gathered for data on healthcare products
- A list has been compiled
- Data content is agreed upon and approved

Business requirements will now be mapped to data requirements

## Recognized experts on serialisation

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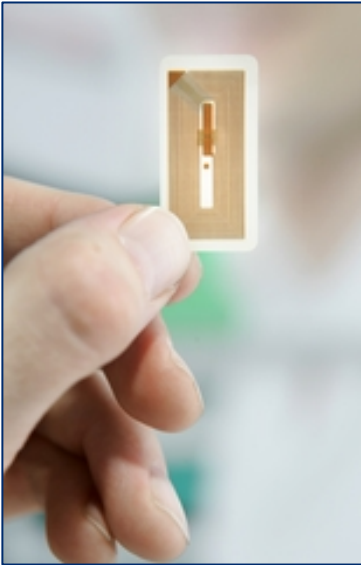


- Initial discussions addressed current and potential U.S. regulations about controlled substances and electronic pedigree
- Now working **globally** and covering **all** healthcare products

**Goal:** Determine the global healthcare sector's size and structural requirements for specific data elements  
(*e.g., lot and serial numbers*)

## Taking counterfeiting seriously

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- GS1 has made anti-counterfeiting a key priority: RFID, Data Matrix, serialisation...
- California-mandated “e-pedigree” track and trace standard being further developed and improved

**Goal:** Develop standards that will prevent counterfeiting



**We are building a healthcare application standard that meets our users' requirements.**





## GS1 and the WHO



**To succeed, we need the  
involvement of the entire sector.**

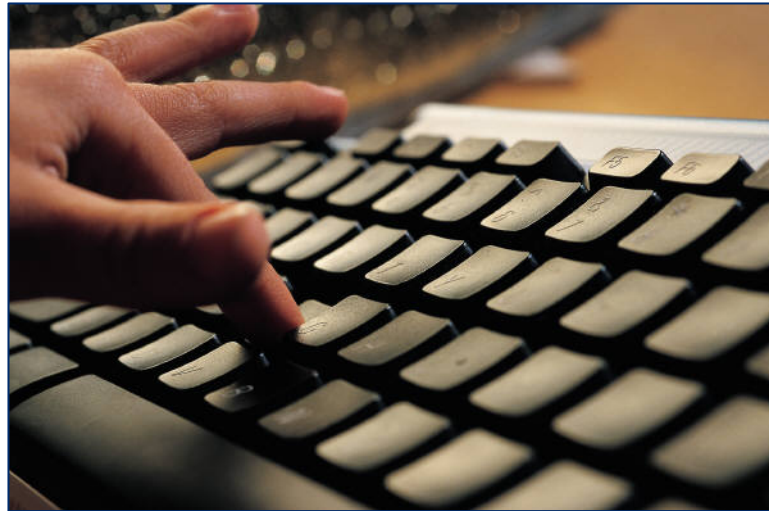




**Thank you.**



For more information



[www.gs1.org/sectors/healthcare/](http://www.gs1.org/sectors/healthcare/)



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