

GS1 Standards in Healthcare: Making a difference in the Healthcare supply chain

ABSTRACT

GS1 Healthcare envisions a future where the Healthcare sector utilises GS1 global Standards for all items, locations, people and processes, to drive patient safety and supply chain efficiency improvements – starting with the manufacturer and ending with procedures or treatments for a specific patient.



Article by **Ulrike Kreysa** and **Jan Denecker**

In light of a variety of concerns about patient safety and rapidly escalating Healthcare costs, governments worldwide are taking action and important policy changes are on the way. Some of them will have a direct impact on the Healthcare supply chain. Various authorities worldwide have developed, or are developing, regulations requiring automatic identification, serialisation and traceability systems in Healthcare to improve patient safety, including the European Commission, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the National Health Surveillance Agency in Brazil (ANVISA), the Ministry of Health of Turkey and the India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

GS1 Standards provide a global framework that takes into account all these types of specific requirements for medical products (pharmaceutical and medical devices).

In light of the same requirements, Healthcare providers, group purchasing organisations and associations worldwide have also announced that they will take action to drive adoption and implementation of GS1 global Standards in the Healthcare supply chain, including; Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Columbia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Japan, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, UK and USA.

GS1 in Healthcare – global reach

GS1 has been working with the global Healthcare community for more than 5 years via its voluntary, global Healthcare user group:

GS1 Healthcare. This group is leading the Healthcare sector to the successful development and deployment of GS1 global Standards by bringing together experts in Healthcare to enhance patient safety and supply chain efficiencies.

Countless hours of vetting, offline discussions, brainstorming and more than 10,000 contact hours (conference calls and physical meetings) have now resulted in some important milestones with the publication of a set of ratified global standards for the Healthcare sector including; GTIN Allocation Rules for Healthcare, AIDC Application Standards for Healthcare and the Global Traceability Standard for Healthcare.

GS1 in Healthcare – local reach

The main focus of GS1 Healthcare is now on standards adoption and implementation. Standards' development work will continue, but now we have reached a point where local Healthcare user groups and GS1 Member Organisations are driving adoption in their local communities and support the implementation of these standards throughout Healthcare. The global and local Healthcare user groups provide a neutral platform for Healthcare supply chain stakeholders to exchange experiences and best practices, to enhance future standards development and adoption.

For more information about GS1 Healthcare, visit www.gs1.org/healthcare.