



The Global Language of Business

Global Standards Management Process

## Electronic health record patient demographics in GS1 barcodes

Mission-Specific Working Group  
Call to Action



### What business challenges are being solved?

Over the last 5 years, healthcare has seen a significant increase in many of their processes becoming digitalised. More recently during the global COVID-19 pandemic, healthcare has an unprecedented need for positive patient identification to deliver efficient and robust diagnosis and treatment. This increased complexity emphasises the requirement for a global standard to aid positive patient identification using existing information held in the electronic health record (EHR).

*Note: In this document, we refer to Electronic Health Record (EHR). However, this may be known by many and varied names e.g., Electronic Patient Record (EPR) or Electronic Medical Record (EMR). We will use EHR to reference the group of systems that hold clinical information on patients.*

### Benefits for Industry

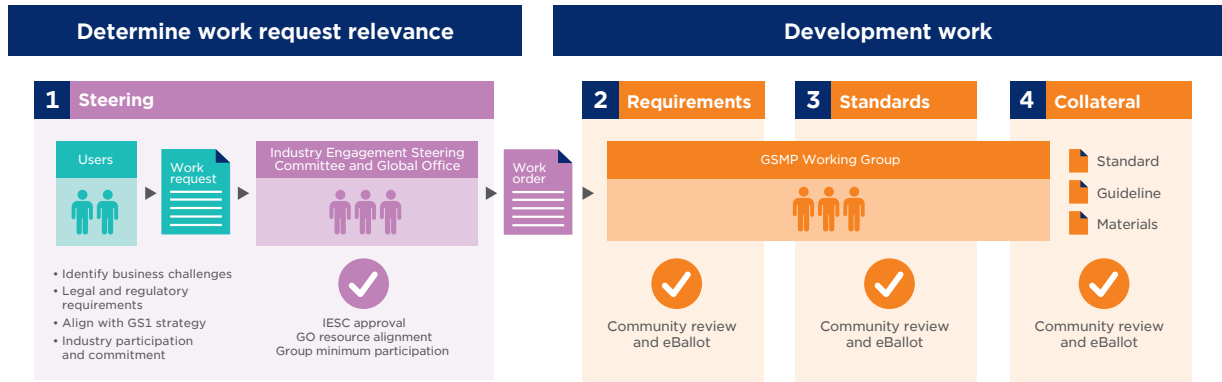
A GS1 standard will provide:

- A global approach to allow patient demographic information to be used alongside existing GS1 patient identifiers
- Enable a consistent approach for patient identification with electronic patient record solution providers
- Reduce error rates in healthcare processes ensuring accurate patient identification
- Improve patient safety and clinical outcomes
- Support the ability to share patient information across healthcare systems and cross borders for patient care
- Reduce the current use of proprietary and internal data sets used to encode patient demographic information

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The GSMP is a community-based forum for businesses facing similar problems to work together and develop standards-based solutions to address them. Active GSMP participants represent industries ranging from retail and consumer goods to fresh foods, healthcare, transport and logistics, government and more—a healthy mix of business and technical people from nearly 60 countries.

# Four Step Consensus-Driven Process



## Why is this work needed?

The creation of a GS1 application standard and a supporting guideline will meet the goal of providing consistency and will help to eliminate the disruption caused by inconsistent implementations around the world.

## Working group objectives

The working group objectives will result in the creation of an application standard that describes how patient demographic information will be used to support verification that the patient is properly identified; along with a subsequent implementation guideline to assist solution providers in providing a consistent approach when implementing patient demographic identification.

## Who should join this working group?

In addition to the experts from the healthcare providers along with standard development organisations, GS1 is specifically looking for the participation of electronic health record solution providers.

Suggested but not required skillsets, both business and technical:

- Knowledge of the electronic health record usage in the healthcare provider setting
- Understanding of the global healthcare direction of identification
- Understanding of the GS1 system of standards

## How will the working group operate?

This working group will follow the GS1 Global Standards Management Process:

- **Define business requirements** — collect input from the industry, MOs and hospital communities
- **Refine and develop standards** — experts draft relevant standards and present them to industry, MOs and hospitals for approval
- **Develop and approve** — standards are approved by the standards development community, ratified by GS1 governance bodies and published

## Next Steps

- Join the working group in time for the kick-off call on 9 March 2023

For more information and to join the group, visit: <https://www.gs1.org/standards/development-work-groups#EHealth>

Help or questions? Contact:  
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