Leading the Way for Traceability

In recent years "Traceability" has become a hot topic in a number of sectors, due in part to notable failures occurring across the supply chain. In the healthcare sector, the increase in counterfeit pharmaceuticals entering the legitimate supply chain, as well as the lack of robust identification of medical device products, have made adverse events reporting difficult and hindered efficient product recalls (e.g. PIP Breast Implants [1] or Metal-on-Metal Hip Implants [2]).

As a response to this Public Health concern, there has been an increasing number of traceability pilots undertaken and several regulations emerging around the world, for both Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices, aimed at minimising failures and ultimately improving patient safety.

The case studies that follow demonstrate the wide range of efforts taking place around the world by different stakeholders - all intended to achieving visibility in the healthcare supply chain by implementing Traceability systems and solutions based on GS1 Global Standards. Although they may have different drivers, they all ultimately have the same goal: **improve patient safety**.

Visibility can provide Traceability for medications and medical devices, but in order to achieve visibility along the entire supply chain all the way to the patient it is essential for all stakeholders, including healthcare providers, to also implement traceability systems.

To this end, GS1 Healthcare introduced the Best Provider Implementation Case Study Award, a formal process for identifying, recording, sharing and rewarding such implementation activities.

Frédérique Frémont, Organisation Engineer at the Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal (CHI) Robert Ballanger, Aulnay-sous-Bois, France is the first individual to receive the Provider

> *GS1 Healthcare is committed to bringing together hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, transporters and others to increase patient safety and care through reduced medication errors and improved product traceability.*

Recognition Award for her long standing involvement in the promotion and implementation of GS1 Standards. She has been instrumental in numerous and on-going implementations of GS1 Standards in the Centre Hospitalier Intercommunal Robert Ballanger and she continues to drive implementation initiatives that have been proven to benefit patient safety and to control costs, namely in the field of traceability within hospitals.

More information about GS1's Best Provider Implementation Case Study Award can be found at: http://www.gs1.org/healthcare

40 years of GS1's Global Standards

This edition of the Reference Book is being published in the year of GS1's 40th anniversary, making it even more special.

From the first bar code scanned until today, over 5 billion products are scanned every day. From local to global use, the GS1 System of Standards includes a variety of solutions that apply to many different sectors.

GS1 Global Healthcare was built upon local GS1 foundations with the industry's commitment to improving the lives of patients. Today, we have GS1 Member Organisations in 110 countries and Healthcare User Groups (or HUGs) organised in 33 countries.

In 2012, the McKinsey & Company Report "Strength in Unity - The promise of global standards in healthcare" [3], pointed out significant patient safety benefits and cost savings by implementing one single global standard in Healthcare.

Over 40 leading Healthcare stakeholders from around the world called for that standard to be the GS1 System of Standards for Healthcare [4], and that number continues to grow.

With this 40th Anniversary in mind, we look ahead to the next 40 years aiming to improve patient safety all over the world.

1   http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice-A-F/Breastimplants/PIPbreastimplants/BackgroundinformationonPIPimplants/index.htm
2   http://www.mhra.gov.uk/Safetyinformation/Generalsafetyinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice/Product-specificinformationandadvice%E2%80%93M%E2%80%93T/Metal-on-metalhipimplants/
3   http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/mckinsey
4   http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/news_events/news#announcements