




Colombia

Traceability: The key for driving efficiencies in the supply chain

<p>Challenge Alexion needed to create a traceability system that would address Colombia's pilot specifications.. Working with multiple stakeholders across the company's supply chain, Alexion led the way to implement GS1 standards, align processes, integrate systems and manage the necessary change for full traceability.</p> <p>Approach Alexion chose GS1 standards to uniquely identify, barcode and label packages and individual units of Soliris, a medicine selected for the traceability pilot. As the packages of Soliris traveled throughout the supply chain, employees and caregivers scanned the GS1 DataMatrix barcodes to capture and share information with all stakeholders.</p>	<p>100% end-to-end traceability—from factory to patient bedside</p>	 <p>Visibility of medicines across the supply chain</p>
	 <p>Traceability information successfully captured and accessed by all stakeholders</p>	 <p>Collaboration between all stakeholders for fully integrated system in compliance with the Colombian pilot requirements regulation</p>

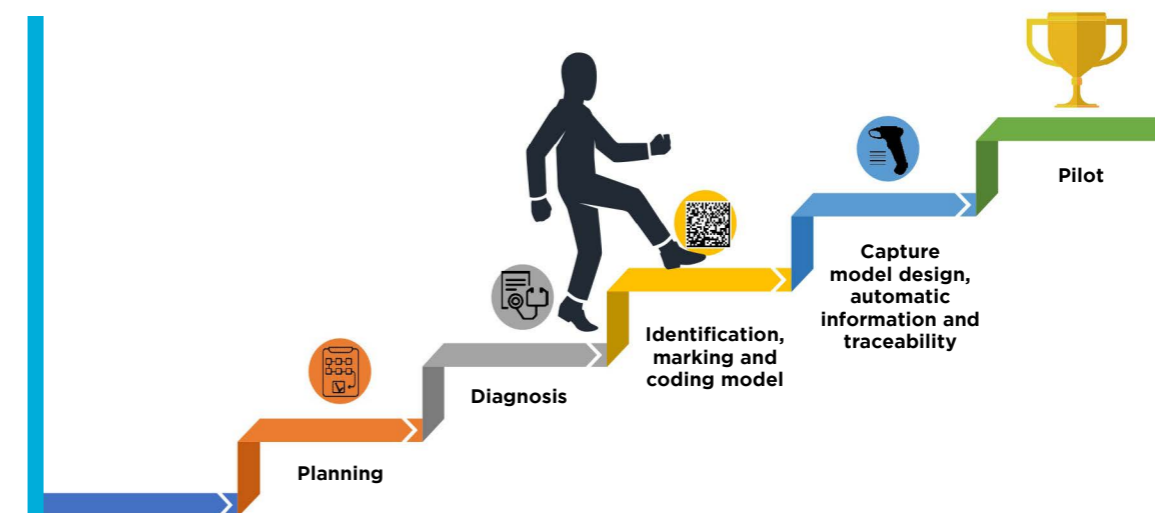


Sponsored by Alexion, the medicine traceability project established a model to capture information using GS1 standards and guidelines. The purpose of the project was to increase the visibility of the medicine, Soliris, throughout the supply chain.

By ensuring pharmaceutical traceability with GS1 identification and barcodes, Alexion aimed to minimise, and even eliminate, the falsification of medicines in its supply chain.

Alexion, in collaboration with its partner, Audifarma, sponsored a project to establish a traceability system that would capture information and enable the visibility and traceability of pharmaceuticals throughout the supply chain. The project initially focused on the medicine, Soliris. Five phases were executed: planning, diagnosis, implementation of GS1 standards for medicine identification, and development of the scanning methodology to capture information about the medicine as it traveled from the factory to patients.

Giovanny Cruz



Every part of the supply chain

The scope of the project's trial encompassed every part of the supply chain. At its headquarters in Bogotá, Alexion assigned a Global Trade Item Number® (GTIN®) to uniquely identify the Soliris product. The GTIN and other information—lot number, serial number and expiration date—were encoded in a GS1 DataMatrix barcode,

printed on a label and applied to the medicine's individual unit of dosage as well as packages. These packages were then shipped to the company's distribution centre. Two major wholesalers in Bogotá and Barranquilla ordered packages of Soliris and distributed them to two healthcare providers for dispensing and administration to patients.

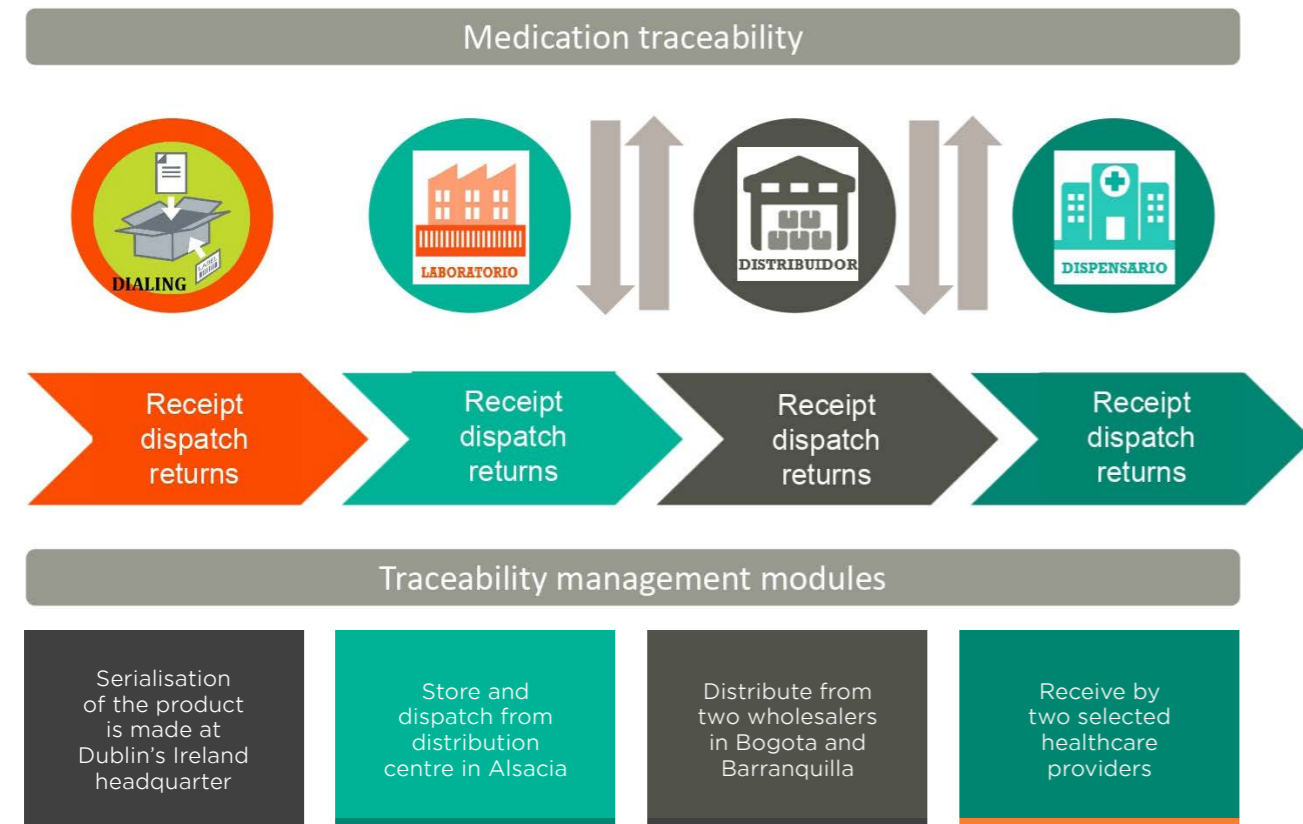
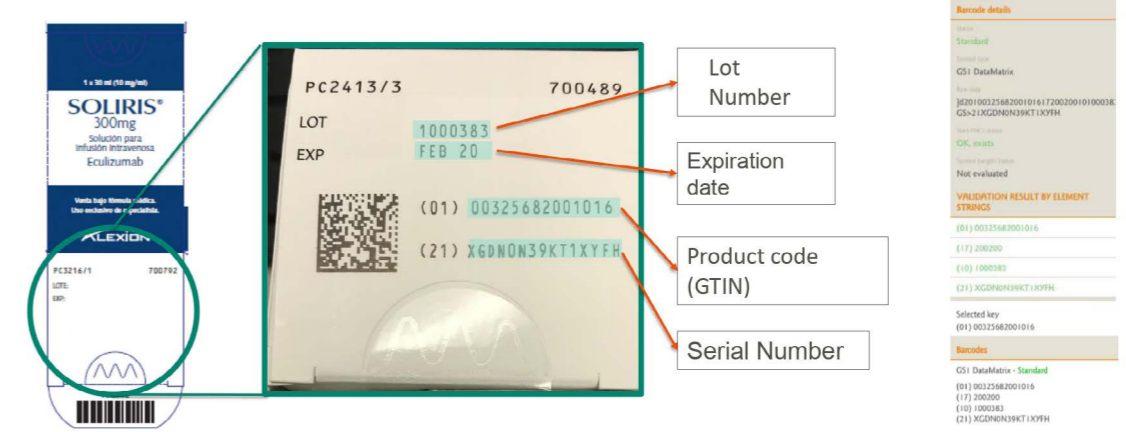


Figure 1: Traceability management modules

Each step of the way, GS1 DataMatrix barcodes on Soliris packages, and then individual dosage units, were scanned to capture information about the medicine throughout the supply chain. The GS1 system of standards was chosen since it offered a global standardised way to uniquely identify and barcode pharmaceuticals. The GS1 DataMatrix barcode was especially important since it is small enough to fit on individual dosage units, yet can hold a large amount of information that can be captured with a single scan.

The project has demonstrated how a medicine like Soliris can be tracked to the patient bedside where it is administered, and then traced back to the factory where it originated. This traceability system, enabled by GS1 standards, confirms Alexion's compliance with Colombia's pilot specifications and improves patient safety each step of the journey.

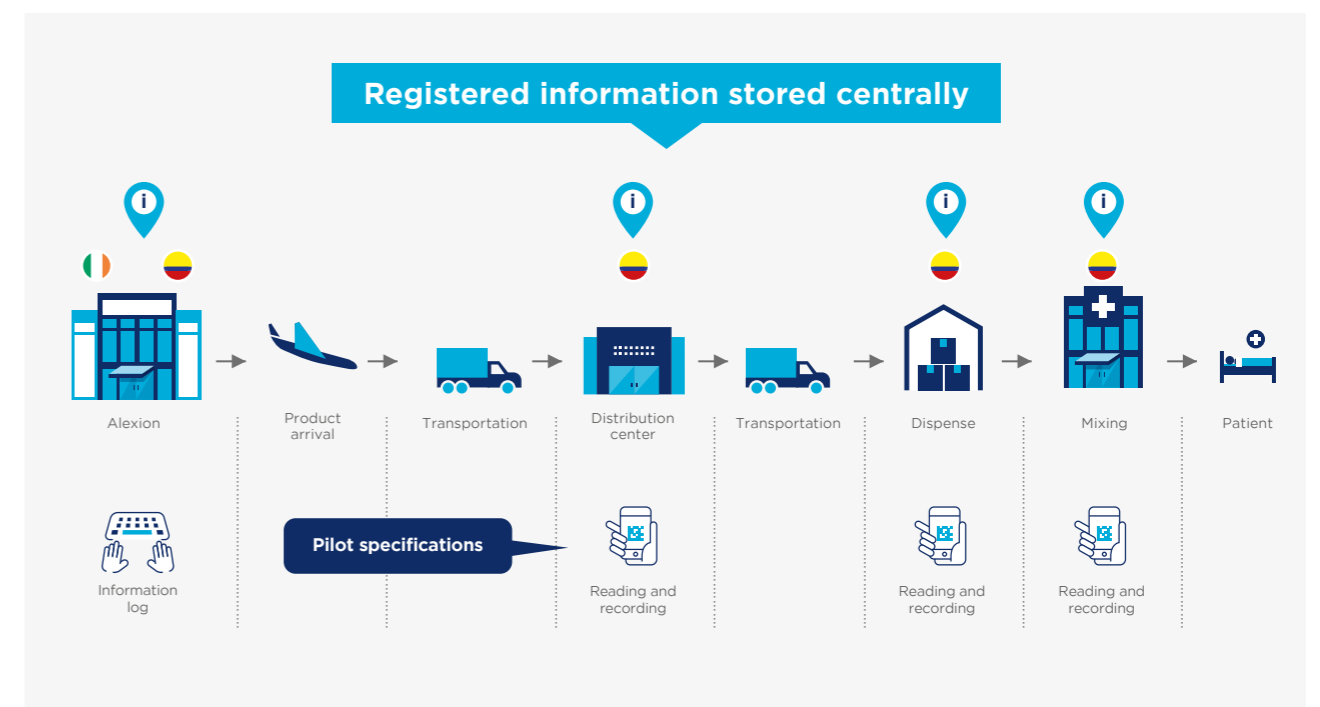


Figure 2: Traceability platform

Systems integration

To gain visibility of the medicine, it was necessary for the various stakeholders' systems to be integrated so that all could have access to the medicine's information—its status and location throughout the supply chain.

By working together in a collaborative way, the project stakeholders understood and realised the value of integration and applied strategies for the success and sustainability of the traceability system.



About the author



Giovanni Cruz
Product Logistics Specialist
Alexion Pharmaceuticals

Giovanni Cruz is an industrial engineer and specialist in International Logistics Management with 20 years of experience in the Pharmaceutical sector. He joined Alexion Pharmaceuticals in 2012 as leader of the company's logistics process. Currently, Mr. Cruz is the manager of the traceability project that addresses high-cost medicines for the Colombia supply chain.

About the organisation



Alexion is a worldwide pharmaceutical company that is dedicated to an understanding of rare diseases, which began with its pioneering work in complementary biology. This knowledge allows the company to innovate and evolve into new areas, where there is great unmet need and opportunity to help patients and families fully live their best lives. Alexion has delivered transformative medicines for people with PNH, aHUS, AQP4, NMOSD, gMG and HPP.

alexion.com

