



The healthcare stakeholders expressed their strong support in the adoption of GS1 as the global standard best suited for their industry



Implementing global standards across the entire healthcare supply chain could save 22,000-43,000 lives and avert 0.7 to 1.4 million patient disabilities, according to the McKinsey report. Called “Strength in unity: The promise of global standards in healthcare”, the report is based on interviews with 80 thought leaders in the healthcare industry.

The report also found that rolling out a single, global standards-based system will:

- Keep **tens of billions of dollars** in counterfeit drugs out of the legitimate supply chain.
- Enable substantial safety benefits that would reduce healthcare costs by **\$40-100 billion**.
- **Cost significantly less** than two or more systems.

60 global healthcare leaders have already endorsed the GS1 healthcare standards

Sign now “to support the adoption of the GS1 system of

standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility – from manufacturers to patients.”

Please contact Ulrike Kreysa - ulrike.kreysa@gs1.org or Anouk Chavel - anouk.chavel@gs1.org

Save 43,000 lives

Implementing global standards across the entire healthcare supply chain could save 22,000-43,000 lives and avert 0.7 to 1.4 million patient disabilities.

Countries around the world are facing challenges regarding ensuring patient safety and reducing overall costs, which affect the entire healthcare supply chain, from manufacturers through to wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organisations and healthcare providers. These challenges are related to counterfeiting, ineffective product recall, medication errors, and complex supply chains. A single, global standard for product identification and data exchange is critical in addressing these issues and ensuring patient safety and lower costs in the healthcare supply chain.

Overall healthcare costs have been rising for many years, and are expected to grow faster than national income in most countries. Stemming this growth has become a major policy priority. Healthcare trading partners are looking for ways to reduce and control costs. One of the most promising opportunities will come through optimising the supply chain by using global standards.

New research by McKinsey & Company, conducted with the participation of more than 80 healthcare industry leaders around the world, has estimated the benefits and value of adopting global standards in the healthcare supply chain – see the white paper at:

www.gs1.org/healthcare/mckinsey

“We (the undersigned) support the adoption of the GS1 system of standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility – from manufacturers to patients.”

GS1 is a not-for-profit, global standards organisation with nearly 40 years’ experience in supply chain optimisation. The GS1 system of standards now spans more than 20 industry sectors, over a million companies in 150 countries and facilitates more than six billion daily transactions. Global adoption of the GS1 system of standards will clearly benefit patients and industry stakeholders worldwide.


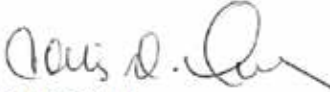
Since 2004, the US FDA has required the use of a product identifier and bar code on pharmaceutical products sold in the US; the GS1 system is used by many companies to meet this legal requirement. The global initiative underway to standardise unique medical device identifiers (UDI) will also be able to utilise the GS1 standards. This initiative, involving medical device manufacturers, customers and supply chain partners, as well as governments, primarily aims to enhance patient safety with the added benefit of supporting greater efficiencies in healthcare delivery.

GS1 global standards can become the ONE language of choice for supply chain management and electronic commerce in healthcare and can improve patient safety, patient compliance and will support electronic health records. GS1 global standards ensure compatibility and interoperability of supply chain solutions, not only within an organisation but also within a country, region, and across sectors and borders.

The McKinsey white paper clearly lays out the case for global standards in healthcare. We encourage all industry stakeholders worldwide, including manufacturers, distributors, providers and regulators to adopt the GS1 global system of standards and realise improved patient safety and reduced overall healthcare costs.

The GS1 system of standards provides an effective globally harmonised and integrated framework to manage supply chain information. The undersigned organisations strongly endorse and support GS1 usage and implementation.




Paula Tamanaha
Vice President, Manufacturing and Supply Chain
3M Critical and Chronic Care Solutions Division
Abbott
A Promise for Life

Corlis D. Murray
Senior Vice President, Quality Assurance,
Regulatory and Engineering Services



RUSSELL GARICH 
Vice President
Distribution and Logistics Services



JITENDRA PRASAD
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT,
CONTRACTING, PROCUREMENT AND
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT
ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES



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Madhu Balachandran
Executive Vice President Operations
ADVANCING GENERICS

Brian Magarkurth
EVP, Global Supply Operations
business. in motion.

Bruno Cambounet
Vice President Healthcare EMEA

Tony Fitzpatrick
Baxter Healthcare S.A.
Bayer HealthCare
Bayer Pharma AG
Product Supply Pharma
Strategy and Projects
13353 Berlin

SHARING EXPERTISE

B. Braun Melsungen AG

Dr. Meinrad Logan
Member of the Board Division Hospital Care & OPM



Stephen Sichak,
Senior Vice President, Integrated Supply Chain, BD

Justin Bitter
MANAGER Operating THEATRE



S. Gotthardt
SERHAN GOTTHARDT
VP CORP. AFF. & GLOBAL SCM



Mike Duffy

Mike Duffy
Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing
and Supply Chain
Medical Segment, Cardinal Health



Julie Tam

Julie Tam
Vice President, Professional and Scientific Affairs
Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association



Ged Halstead
Ged Halstead
Chief Information Officer
Clifford Hallam Healthcare



David J. Reed

DAVID J. REED
Vice President - Operations
Vice President - Healthcare Business Solutions
Corporate Compliance Officer
Cook Medical Incorporated



Matt Gattuso

Matt Gattuso
President, Global Health Systems



Neil Lawrence

Neil Lawrence,
Programme leader AIDC technologies
The Department of Health UK



Francesc Miret

Francesc Miret
Operations Director
FEDERACIO FARMACEUTICA



Dr. Michael Schönholzer

Dr. Michael Schönholzer
Member of the Management Board
President Science, Production & Technology
Fresenius Kabi AG



Deborah Petretich Templeton

Deborah Petretich Templeton
Chief, Care Support Services



Rob Coyle
Rob Coyle
Vice President, Global Logistics



Laurel Junk

Laurel Junk
Chair, Healthcare Transformation Group
Vice President Supply Chain, Kaiser Permanente

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Kathleen Boyle

Vice President, Pharmacy Services
HealthPRO Procurement Services Inc.



Megan Main

Megan Main
Chief Executive
Health Purchasing Victoria



[Signature]
Centre Hospitalier de Brive
Pharmacie et Distribution
Tel: 03 25 52 44 76 / Fax: 03 25 52 44 25
Dr Jean-Louis CARDE
Pharmacien de l'hôpital
07 83 241 14



[Signature]
Georges NICOLAOS
Pharmacien
Centre Hospitalier de Coulommiers
77527
117713H
Président de la CAE
Vice Président du directeur
Pharmacie chef



[Signature]
UNIVERSITE DE BOURGOGNE
DIRECTION GENERALE
Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Dijon



Christiane COUDRIER
Directeur général

[Signature]

Directeur Général du CHU de DIJON



[Signature]
Le Directeur
de Centre Hospitalier de Besançon
Christophe KASSEL

[Signature]
Alain PINARD,
Ingénieur logistique
Direction des Ressources Physiques



Laurent ZADERATZKY
Directeur-Adjoint chargé des Ressources Physiques

[Signature]



[Signature]
Frédérique Frémont
Medico-Technical Department Manager
C.H.I Robert Ballanger - Aulnay sous Bois - France



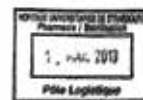
M. Toulouse
CEO
Centre Hospitalier Sud Francilien



[Signature]



[Signature]



Reçoit P. KESSEBARD
Pharmacien
[Signature]



John F. Hogan
President,
Johnson & Johnson Health Care Systems Inc.



Xavier Alarcón
Planning and Purchasing Director
LOGARITME LOGISTIC SERVICES AIE



Kristian Lærum Sibilliz
Vice President
Global Supply Chain



By: James R. Francis

Division Chair
Mayo Clinic Supply Chain Management



Ronald N. Bone
SVP, Distribution Support
McKesson Pharmaceutical



Kent Nicholson,
President & CEO



Vance Moore
Senior Vice President - Operations



Tony DiEmanuele
President and CEO
Mohawk Shared Services Inc.



Pierre Guyot
CEO
Mölnlycke Health Care



Northern
Territory
Government

Allison Grierson
Director Procurement
Department of Health



Dan Sweeney
Novation, Senior Vice President,
Information and Data Services



HealthShare

James Brown
Director Strategic Procurement

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Chikayuki OCHIAI, M.D., D.M.Sc
Chief Executive
NTT Medical Center Tokyo



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Mike Alkire
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Gene Kirtser
President/CEO



Brian Johnson
Chair Rx360 Consortium

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Rob van Exan
Director, Immunization Policy, Public Affairs



Paul Broadbridge
Deputy Director, Procurement and Supply Chain Management
Department for Health and Ageing



Jeff Stevens - President
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Brian Fitzgerald
Interim CEO
St James's Hospital



Craig Doyle
Group Manager Procurement
St Vincent's Health Australia



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be "Peter C. Murray".

Peter C. Murray
Director Supply, Health Corporate Network

GS1 Global Office

Blue Tower, Avenue Louise 326, bte 10, Brussels, B-1050, Belgium
T +32 2 788 78 00 | **F** +32 2 788 78 99 | **E** contactus@gs1.org
www.gs1.org/healthcare

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