



# Important statement from the GS1 Healthcare Clinical Trials Implementation Group

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## The clinical trials supply chain needs to adopt standards-based identification of physical locations, digital locations and parties

Standards-based identification of physical locations, digital locations and parties across the clinical trials supply chain helps achieve seamless and accurate delivery of the right investigational product to the right place.

Such identification helps to ease study set-up because the identifiers are not trial- or sponsor-specific. Instead, every study using a particular physical location, digital location or party can use the same location identifier, reducing complexity for everyone involved. This means, for example, that each trial site can use (and re-use) a single identifier, rather than establishing separate trial site identifiers for each study or sponsor.

Based on experience from the commercial healthcare sector and the resulting ability to leverage the standardised identification put in place through this work, the time is right for the clinical trials supply chain to adopt global standards for location identification.

The Global Location Number (GLN) is a global standard that enables the unique and unambiguous identification of any type of location used in business processes, which is a prerequisite for efficient communication between trading partners. A GLN acts as a database key, providing standard references for location-specific information that is repeatedly applied across supply chains. Its function is to provide clarity, reduce input errors and increase efficiency.

GLNs are widely implemented in healthcare in many countries, including Australia, Germany, the U.K. (eProcurement strategy, Scan4Safety by NHS), and the U.S.A. GLNs are also used to identify healthcare providers who are often trial sites.

## Industry collaborating to develop global standards

Since 2016, more than 100 clinical trials supply chain stakeholders have been working to develop standards to meet the industry's needs, including applying GLNs. Implementation of these standards across the clinical trials supply chain will streamline processes and relationships and drive global harmonisation. Clinical sites will see a common approach from sponsors, which will simplify and secure their processes, as well as remove duplication in receiving and dispensing investigational products, ultimately benefiting patients.

### Adopt GLNs now!

Please check if your organisation already uses GLNs:

- > If it does, communicate these to your trading partners.
- > If you are unsure if GLNs are used or don't have GLNs, [contact your local GS1 Member Organisation](#) to find out more.

## Join our community!

Learn more about the use of GS1 standards in clinical trials and get involved. Go to <https://www.gs1.org/industries/healthcare/clinical-trials>.

