



Q1. What is the difference between GS1 Global Office and GS1 Healthcare Global; why do I need to pay more to be part of GS1 Healthcare Global?

A1. GS1 is an international not-for-profit association with Member Organisations in over 100 countries. GS1 Global Office, based in Brussels, is the organisation that represents the interests of GS1 Member Organisations. Companies cannot become members of GS1 Global Office directly, but are represented through their local GS1 Member Organisation.

The global, Healthcare user group, 'GS1 Healthcare', is a sector specific user group facilitated by GS1 Global Office. This user group has decided to fund the accelerated development of standards in Healthcare. Members of the user group provide funds directly to GS1 Global Office in order to support the resources that are required to complete this work and an elected leadership team guides standards development projects on automatic identification, traceability and data synchronization, as well as a public policy working group.

Q2. If I am a member of GS1 Healthcare Global am I automatically a member of GS1 Healthcare US?

A2. GS1 Healthcare US and GS1 Healthcare Global are two separate organisations with different, but complementary objectives.

GS1 Healthcare Global works on standards development and seeks to ensure that the Healthcare sector utilises GS1 global standards for all items, locations, people and processes to drive patient safety and supply chain efficiency improvements — starting with manufacturers and ending with patients.

For more information about how to join GS1 Healthcare Global please visit our website: <http://www.gs1.org/healthcare>.

GS1 Healthcare US works on the local implementation of the standards developed by the global team. Work teams focus on how supply chain stakeholders will integrate the use of standards into their IT systems, business processes and transactions with suppliers and customers.

For more information about how to join GS1 Healthcare Global please visit our website: <http://www.gs1us.org/sectors/healthcare>

Q3. Will I need to join all of the local Healthcare user groups? Do all local healthcare user groups charge a fee to join?

A3. Many local GS1 Member Organisations have a local user groups devoted to promoting the adoption of global standards in the Healthcare sector. To become member of a local user group, some countries only require to be a member in good standing, others may charge specific fees, depending upon a number of factors including the material cost of support.

For a full list of GS1 Member Organisations that have local healthcare groups please visit: <http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/about/usergroups>

GS1 Healthcare Membership

Frequently Asked Questions

Q4. Will I need to join a local GDSN-certified data pool in every country?

A4. No, in order to exchange data via the GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN), an organisation only needs to join one of the GDSN-certified data pools. However, some organisations chose to join more than one data pool for many reasons. The decision depends on the organisation's business model.

Generally speaking, if the organisation has a centralised business model where all product and master data are managed from a central location, it usually makes more sense to join one data pool to access the GDSN and exchange data with their trading partners regardless of which country each is located.

Some organisations have a decentralised business model where product and associated master data are managed at a country level, or different business units, in which case, they may chose to join a data pool in the country where the division is located or business unit type.

The decision is up to the organisation itself and based on what makes the most sense for the way they operate.

When adoption of data synchronisation is driven by regulatory or local market requirements, there may be a need for provision of data fields or data pool functionalities that are not catered for by the GDSN standard. These functionalities can be added to the GDSN standard when the global community determines. This could include regulatory data, images and attachments, a requirement for loaded data to be validated against business rules, or a need for data to be hosted in the data pool/product registry for web based access by data recipients. Based on the location and requirements of your trading partners, subscribing to the appropriate data pool/product registry enables you to access/provide both information that meets core GDSN product attribute requirements, as well as data that meets regional requirements.

For more information on the Canadian Healthcare Product Registry, please refer to www.gs1ca.org/healthcare, contact GS1 Canada Membership Services at info@gs1ca.org or 1.800.567.7084 ext. 3.

For more information on the Australian National Product Catalogue, please refer to <http://www.gs1au.org/industry/healthcare/> or contact Helle Clausen at helle.clausen@gs1au.org.

Q5. Will I need to join a local GLN, will I have to pay in every country to upload GLN information?

A5. Each GLN Registry is managed by the local community and operates under a specific user access model determined in agreement with the local membership.

There is a global work group, operating via the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP), which is addressing the GLN registries and is charged with making a recommendation based on sector-specific needs for GLN Registries in Healthcare. Stakeholders are invited to participate in this work group and raise their business requirements.

Q6. If I need to join in each country, what is the benefit of having a global system?

A6. Local GS1 Member Organizations deal with specific issues that are relevant to their country. Not all geographies are implementing standards in the same manner, with identical objectives, and at the same time. For example, counterfeit products are an important consideration in some countries, while reimbursement, recall or product fraud may be more important in others. Local organisations deal with local government agencies, industry associations, hospital associations, and must respond to specific demands that may not be present globally.

Participation will depend upon your organisation's interest in specific local issues and the relevance of these issues to your entity's headquarters or one of your subsidiaries. Through our work at the global level, through the Public Policy Work Team, we try to ensure that regardless of the motivation, issues, or timing, that a single, globally interoperable standards are adopted.