

Dutch Federation of University Medical Centre (NFU) chooses GS1 Standards for bar coding

Amsterdam (20 November 2008) - The NFU [Nederlandse Federatie Universitair Medische Centra] chooses GS1 Standards to increase patient safety and to improve supply chain efficiency. The NFU, comprised of members of the eight Boards of Governors of the university medical centres in the Netherlands, have decided to implement structural improvements, leveraging the international system of GS1 Standards.

Over the last few years, the Dutch university medical centres have been investigating a suitable bar coding system. It appears that bar coding is used in multiple places in a hospital, to improve the safety and efficiency of processes, but there is no consistency between the different departments within a hospital, nor between hospitals. The final targets, i.e. improved patient safety and efficiency, are therefore only being partially achieved.

Hans Lunenburg, Senior Advisor Healthcare GS1 Netherlands: *"To realise substantial improvements, an open system of multi-sectorial and cross-border bar coding standards is needed. The GS1 System of Standards enables improvements to various processes, including, for example, traceability of implants. Patient safety improvements are enabled through the global GS1 Standards. This is also a call to action to all other healthcare providers and hospitals. Working with standards only truly works if all involved stakeholders adopt these standards"*.

About GS1 Netherlands and Healthcare

GS1 Healthcare, a global, voluntary user group facilitated by GS1, a not-for-profit international standards organisation, allows the Healthcare sector to collaborate and improve the supply chain. 56 countries are already using GS1 Standards to uniquely identify healthcare products. These standards are aimed at improving patient safety and reduce cost in the supply chain.

About GS1 Netherlands

GS1 Netherlands helps companies to better work together in the supply chain to serve their customers in a fast, better and cost-efficient way. GS1 Netherlands offers a comprehensive portfolio of Efficient Consumer Response improvement concepts, global GS1 Standards and the related supporting services. GS1 Netherlands is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation with more than 7,000 member companies from 30 sectors. GS1 Netherlands is a member organisation of the global GS1 organisation.

Contact:

Jolanda van Heukelom
GS1 Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)20 511 38 49