

Raising the bar on patient safety and supply chain efficiency

Security, traceability and efficiency in Healthcare are currently at the forefront of government regulations and industry concerns around the world. The cost and complexity of diverse regulations, proprietary service offerings and incompatible solutions has led the community to call for defining and adopting global, open and neutral standards. GS1 Standards ensure interoperability and compatibility and enable all stakeholders to efficiently and effectively comply with various identification, traceability and product catalogue requirements.

GS1 Healthcare – a global, voluntary user group

Established in 2005, GS1 Healthcare, a voluntary, global Healthcare user group, leads the Healthcare sector in the development and implementation of global standards by bringing together experts in Healthcare to enhance patient safety and supply chain efficiencies.

The user group provides a neutral platform for all related Healthcare stakeholders, including: pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, group purchasing organisations, hospitals, pharmacies, logistics providers, governmental and regulatory bodies, and associations.

GS1 Healthcare welcomes solution providers as user group members

As we shift our focus and work efforts towards implementation and adoption activities, we encourage all solution providers to become member of the global user group and help shape the future of Healthcare.

Membership of the global GS1 Healthcare user group allows members to:

- get full and timely access to information on international developments in the area of product identification, electronic product catalogues and traceability, that will provide early insights into developing requirements
- work with regulators across the world as a neutral and trusted source
- get access to the GS1 Healthcare Public Policy Database
- get engaged in a global community of healthcare supply chain stakeholders advancing global standards
- ensure consideration of all requirements of all stakeholder groups in the global standards development process

GS1 Healthcare has focused standards development efforts on three critical areas:

- Automatic Identification & Data Capture (AIDC)
- Traceability in Healthcare
- Global Data Synchronisation & Product Classification

Various work groups have gathered business requirements and developed standards following the GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP). While standards development will continue,

GS1 Healthcare now turns its attention to standards implementation activities. The GS1 Healthcare roadmap is available at: www.gs1.org/docs/healthcare/GS1_Healthcare_Roadmap.pdf.

GS1 Healthcare has also established a Public Policy Work Team, providing strategic leadership in the conduct and interaction with global public policy makers and government authorities, to influence the movement towards harmonisation of product identification, data synchronisation and traceability requirements, in alignment with GS1 Standards. The work team provides a forum for open exchange of information between members including discussion concerning actions and trends of global public policy, and monitors the global landscape of related laws, regulations, directives etc.

Only GS1 Healthcare members have access to the Public Policy Database; an online repository of regulations and directives from over 80 countries related to requirements for Healthcare product identification, product catalogues and traceability. Members also receive timely community announcements on important developments and trends.

GS1 Healthcare hosts three global Healthcare conferences per year (in the Americas, EMEA and Asia-Pacific). Members are entitled to a reduced fee to participate in these conferences.

How to get engaged

Solution providers can become voting members of the global, Healthcare user group.

- Voting members must be a member in good standing of a GS1 member organisation.
- All user group participants, including solution providers, are expected to provide practical and unbiased input to further the user group's goals, refrain from self-promotion and promotion of their company's products, services, and/or disclosure/claims of intellectual property during work group sessions, and adhere to the GS1 Code of Conduct.
- For more information about the governance of the global, Healthcare user group, see the GS1 Healthcare Governance Charter at www.gs1.org/healthcare/about/charter_roadmap
- GS1 Healthcare Annual membership fees are set by GS1 in coordination with the Healthcare Leadership Team and are included in the Membership Registration Form (http://www.gs1.org/sites/default/files/docs/healthcare/GS1_Healthcare_Registration_Form.doc). The membership fee of the global, Healthcare user group for solution providers also includes the EPCglobal membership fee, but does NOT include membership fees for a GS1 Member Organisation or for local, Healthcare user groups.