



November 2005

PATIENT SAFETY IS THE FOCUS OF THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY AND REGULATORY BODIES

The second meeting of the global GS1 Healthcare User Group (HUG) was held on 13 – 15 September 2005 in Brussels. It focused on gaining an understanding of global regulatory requirements regarding patient safety as well as reporting progress the group has made since the kick-off meeting in May.

Speakers from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Sanco), the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA), the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Italian Ministry of Health, the National Patient Safety Agency of



the NHS, United Kingdom and the Regional Healthcare Service Area of Andalucía, Spain presented their work and views about patient safety. The participants and speakers appreciated the opportunity to have an open discussion and to exchange information exchange and agreed to carry the work of the HUG forward by working together more closely.

Delegates from 22 leading global pharmaceutical and medical device companies and 10 GS1 Member Organisations discussed the HUG work plan and listened to the requirements of regulatory bodies. The HUG is concentrating particularly on ensuring that appropriate data structures are selected in order to meet common business needs, and to help ensure data standardisation in healthcare. If standardisation is applied globally, systems to improve patient safety will be developed and implemented quicker than if individual countries were to pursue separate solutions. The three work teams (Standards Development, Standards

Implementation and Regulatory Affairs) made good progress with regards to their objectives under the lead of chairs from Baxter, Johnson & Johnson and Medtronic.

Miguel Angel Lopera, Chief Executive Officer of GS1, welcomed the broad participation of the healthcare industry and said, "I'm pleased that the healthcare industry has chosen GS1 standards to develop a global solution for the benefit of patients worldwide. Under the coordinated and unified leadership of the industry GS1 standards will be optimised for the use in healthcare and global guidelines will drive and promote implementation around the world."

Volker Zeinar, B.Braun, HUG Co-Chair, commented: "Patient safety has many faces and standardised machine-readable product identification can make an essential contribution. Where better to discuss and improve all the related aspects than in a global working group, open to all healthcare supply chain stakeholders. The GS1 HUG offers an excellent platform to work together to find harmonised solutions. We engage ourselves in this initiative with the intention of sharing our expertise, learning from others and optimising product identification for the benefit of patient."



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Notes to editors

GS1 Healthcare User Group (HUG)

The objective of the GS1 HUG is to lead the utilisation and development of global standards for the healthcare industry, with the primary focus on automatic product identification to improve patient safety.

The GS1 HUG is developing, promoting and implementing a global industry response for solutions for preventing medical errors, combating counterfeits and improving supply chain efficiencies throughout the healthcare industry. For more information please see at <http://www.gs1.org/hug/>.

GS1 - THE GLOBAL LANGUAGE OF BUSINESS

GS1 is a global organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards, technologies and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply and demand chains.

GS1 has more than 30 years experience in the development and support of global supply chain standards and technologies. GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit standards (and related services) organisation.

GS1 offers a diversified portfolio of products, solutions and services, including the GS1 System of standards, the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. GS1's portfolio ranges from GS1 BarCodes to GS1 eCom (electronic commerce tools) to next generation technologies and solutions such as GS1 GDSN (Data Synchronization), EPCglobal (using RFID technologies) and traceability.

The organisation operates in more than 20 industries and sectors ranging from Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) to Health Care, Transport & Logistics, and Defence. GS1 and its Member Organisations play a leading role in supply and demand chain management improvement worldwide for large, small and medium-sized organisations.

Formed in 2004 from the joining together of EAN International & the Uniform Code Council, Inc (UCC), GS1 is truly global, with a presence in 101 countries driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than five billion transactions a day.



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