



GS1 Healthcare Newsletter

# GS1 Healthcare Africa

February 4, 2022

## Zambia published draft guidelines for their pharmaceutical traceability system

In late October 2021, the [Zambia Medicines Regulatory Authority \(ZAMRA\)](#) published draft Guideline on Identification and Labelling of Medicines and Allied Substances and Master Data Sharing for public comments and feedback. This document aims to provide guidance on how the Authority will require products to be labelled in support of their future pharmaceutical traceability system that is based on GS1 standards. This is an important step that needs to be taken in order to set up pharmaceutical traceability systems.

ZAMRA is set to finalise and publish these guidelines early in 2022. Once published, Zambia will be the second

country in Sub-Sahara Africa, the first being Ethiopia, to have in place the necessary regulatory guidance for pharmaceutical traceability using GS1 standards.

In addition to the guidelines, Zambia is also working on setting up their master data platform that will serve as the single source of truth for all product information in the country. This work is being championed with leadership from the Ministry of Health.

The Zambia regulatory authority head alongside the head of IT spoke in a bit more detail about their plans during the 3<sup>rd</sup> GS1 healthcare online summit held in November 2021.

Contact [nuran.idris@gs1.org](mailto:nuran.idris@gs1.org) to gain access to the recorded sessions or access the **Africa session highlights**.

Contact [pharmacy@zamra.co.zm](mailto:pharmacy@zamra.co.zm) with questions about ZAMRA's plans for pharmaceutical traceability.

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## Learning from each other: Ghana FDA visits Nigeria's NAFDAC

During the last quarter of 2021, a team from Ghana's Food and Drug Authority visited Nigeria's [National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control \(NAFDAC\)](#) to learn more about their journey thus far in setting up a pharmaceutical traceability system. During

this visit, amongst other discussion items, NAFDAC shared important considerations, lessons learnt, anticipated challenges and potential mitigation strategies with Ghana FDA. This is an important exchange that demonstrates (1) that more and more countries are joining the effort to secure their supply chains using global GS1 standards and (2) the importance in learning from each other especially for countries in the same region facing similar circumstances. In mid-January 2022, the Ghana national traceability technical working was officially inaugurated by the Minister of Health. This technical working group will provide guidance on the function and design of the traceability system, amongst other tasks.

Simultaneously, Nigeria's NAFDAC continues to strengthen its understanding of GS1 based pharmaceutical traceability through, amongst other initiatives, conducting numerous pilots for COVID-19 serialised traceability, this means that the Agency is tracing each unique iteration of the secondary packs of COVID-19 vaccines as it moves through the supply chain. The learnings from these pilots are instrumental in informing the future plans of setting up Nigeria's pharmaceutical traceability system.

To learn more and stay up to date with Nigeria's progress check their pharmaceutical traceability page



## Egypt published guidance for unique identification (UDI)

In December 2021, the Egyptian Drug Authority (EDA) officially announced and published the guidance on the country's requirements for uniquely identifying medical devices UDI. This was preceded by a publication of a decree earlier in the year to the same effect whereas the decree specifies important deadlines. This is an important milestone that will help protect patients in Egypt. GS1 will be the only issuing agency for UDI's.

Access GS1's UDI page to learn more about UDI or contact [healthcare@gs1eg.org](mailto:healthcare@gs1eg.org) or follow them on LinkedIn or Facebook with questions about Egypt's new requirements.

## GS1 Nigeria launched data synchronisation services to its customers

In early October 2021, GS1 Nigeria officially started offering Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) services to its customers. GDSN makes it possible for any company, in any market, to share high-quality product information seamlessly.

Read more about this announcement. To learn more about GDSN and other services offered by GS1 Nigeria contact GS1 Nigeria [healthcare@gs1ng.org](mailto:healthcare@gs1ng.org) or follow them on LinkedIn, Instagram or Facebook to stay up to date with ongoing initiatives.



## Strategy document is signed & traceability steering committee formed in Botswana

In October 2021, the permanent secretary of Botswana's Ministry of Health signed Botswana's pharmaceutical traceability vision and strategy document. Later that year, with leadership from Botswana's Medicines Regulatory Authority (BOMRA), a group of select institutions from the Botswana government launched the traceability steering committee which will serve to provide guidance to the country's efforts to set up

pharmaceutical traceability. In addition to BOMRA, the Ministry of Health, Pharma Society of Botswana, alongside development partners including WHO, USAID form some of the steering committee members.

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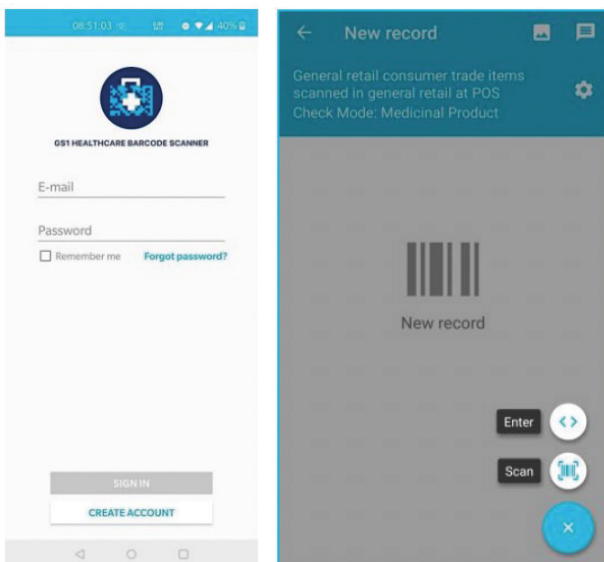
## Position paper on GS1 DataMatrix barcode in healthcare published

At the end of 2021, GS1 Healthcare's community published a [position paper](#) that provides guidance on the importance and use of GS1 DataMatrix within the healthcare sector. The healthcare sector has chosen the GS1 DataMatrix as the 2D barcode for the identification of medical products. This paper provides some important details.

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## Version 4 of the GS1's Healthcare Barcode Scanner App (HBSA) has been released

This app enables users to check the encoding of a GS1 barcode and survey to assess an organisation's possible use of GS1 barcodes. In addition to enhancements and bug fixes, a new functionality in version 4 of the app has been added, [Digital Link](#) demonstration. A user can scan a GS1 barcode and demonstrate how to access one or more pieces of digital information about that product.



To learn more about the HBSA, access the [app website](#). Contact GS1 Healthcare via [healthcare@gs1.org](mailto:healthcare@gs1.org) with any questions about this.



## Events to look out for in the first half of 2022

### > GS1 Healthcare symposium for francophone countries

In May 2022, the USAID Global Health Supply Chain Technical Assistance Francophone Task Order project will host a 3-day semi-virtual Francophone Africa GS1 Healthcare Symposium. During this event, Ministry of Health representatives from Francophone countries in West and Central Africa will have the possibility to hear how global GS1 standards enhance patient safety and promote supply chain security and efficiency. Additionally, selected governments will present their experiences and progress implementing various foundational activities for GS1 adoption and use. For more information about this event please contact [francophoneTOBillable@chemonics.com](mailto:francophoneTOBillable@chemonics.com)

**GS1 Healthcare organises multiple informative webinars, to learn about the upcoming ones and other events organised/promoted by GS1 Healthcare, follow GS1 Healthcare on LinkedIn or check the Events section on the GS1 Healthcare webpage.**

## About GS1 Healthcare

GS1 Healthcare is a neutral and open community bringing together all related healthcare stakeholders to lead the successful development and implementation of global GS1 standards, enhancing patient safety, and operational and supply chain efficiencies.

The development and implementation of GS1 standards is led by the experts who use them: pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organisations, hospitals, pharmacies, logistics providers, solution providers, governmental and regulatory bodies, and trade associations. Evidence available from industry implementations shows that GS1 identification, data capture and data sharing standards in healthcare deliver tangible benefit to all stakeholders. Global members of GS1 Healthcare include more than 100 leading healthcare organisations worldwide.

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