

How GLNs contribute to the Standardization Effort

The challenge

The basic information in the healthcare supply chain need to be **accurate, up to date and synchronized**. Even though today information and data are more easily accessible than ever before the healthcare system is still an immature and expensive system with **significant barriers to efficiency**. Poor data impacts patient safety when the supply chain fails to deliver the right product, to the right patient, at the right time. Common standards are required to effectively control both cost and quality in healthcare.

Utilizing the **GS1 Global Location Number (GLN)**, **Charité** decided to implement standardized identifiers for accounts/locations as an **essential step** in their effort to fully support the adoption of healthcare supply chain standards.

Charité Mission Statement: Play an Active Role

The **GLN** is used to uniquely identify locations and legal entities from manufactures, distributors, hospitals, all the way down to nursing stations. Transaction errors will be reduced while ensuring that the right product, procedure and/or treatment is delivered to the right location.

Muazzez Weiss, Senior Application Manager - SAP Logistics, emphasized the importance of organizations **taking ownership of their data**.

"Only we can be responsible for knowing who we are. We do not want to rely on a third party identifying a shipping location. And we believe in global, accepted standards and the efficiencies that will be gained across the supply chain implementing the GS1 standards."



Project Steps

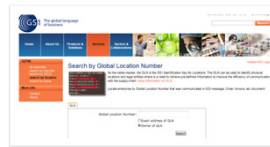
The project stake holders agreed to following project phases:

- Validate the address information* and reconcile any discrepancies
- Assign a GLN to all active shipping addresses
- Upload the assigned GLNs to GEPIR (www.gepir.de) in order to make the GLNs visible to all trading partners
- Verify the process by using the GLN throughout the whole transaction cycle and demonstrate end-to-end success
- Establish a process in order to maintain / update the GLN registry in GEPIR on a daily base; process can be initiated by the functional department and will be fully supported by an automated web based solution incl. an approval step

* GLNs must have proper alignment with the daily operations and the application they used for ; therefore it is recommended to determine what locations truly need to be identified with a GLN.

* GEPIR

GEPIR (Global Electronic Party Information Registry) is an **unique, internet-based service** that gives access to basic contact information for companies that are members of GS1. These member companies use GS1's globally unique numbering system to identify their products, physical locations, or shipments. By simply typing a product bar code number into GEPIR, anyone can find the owner of that barcode's contact information. Physical location numbers and Shipment numbers can also be used as search criteria.



Facts and Figures

The Charité situation might be challenging due to the geographical situation. Today's Charité has **four locations*** throughout Berlin:

- **Charité Campus Buch (CCB)** is located in the north of Berlin
 - The **Charité Management** as well as the **Charité Campus Mitte (CCM)** and **Campus Virchow-Klinikum (CVK)** are located in the center of Berlin.
 - The **Campus Benjamin Franklin (CBF)** is located in south Berlin
- Each location may have several additional locations. In total more than 15,000 delivery addresses need to be maintained.



Project Outcome using GLN

- clean data on delivery locations and therefore reduced error rate (by considering the correct internal and external delivery address)
- more accurate purchase orders and invoicing processes improves the healthcare supply chain
- real-time access to GLNs - always up-to-date using GEPIR and the recommended process

Overall benefits

- improved infrastructure and data accuracy set the stage for process optimization and patient safety initiatives
- better product and lot number tracking
- real-time product usage and consumption allows an efficient documentation and account billing

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PLEASE NOTE: Web based solution developed by Charité will replace the manual data entry in SAP

Charité – at a glance

The **Charité** is one of the largest university hospitals in Europe. Here, 3800 doctors and scientists heal, do research and teach at the top international level. More than half of the German Nobel Prize winners in medicine and physiology come from the **Charité**, among them Emil von Behring, Robert Koch and Paul Ehrlich. The **Charité** also has an international reputation for excellence in training. It extends over four campuses with more than 100 clinics and institutes bundled under 17 Charité Centers. With 13,000 employees, the Charité generates about 1.2 billion Euros in sales per year and is one of the largest employers in Berlin.

Greater transparency, safety and quality

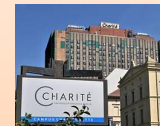
The **Charité** also initiated an additional project by implementing **standardized bar-coding** in order to improve the time-consuming cost unit billing by Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRG calculation). Scanner systems were introduced and the documentation is now done by scanning the GS1 barcodes on the consumed products. **Materials are allocated directly to the patients** through the IT-system. Since the continuous entry of consumed material provides up-to-date figures of the article in stock, the entire **ordering process** can be **automated**. With the transparency that will be created, products can also easily traced within the hospital which will also contribute to an increased efficiency and enhanced patient safety.

* with a total usable area of 547,000 square meters (June 2012) and 3,213 hospital beds

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