The development of electronic exchange (Internet or value added networks) enables
industry to mark and trace equipment
and materials, as well as optimize the flow of information and to control costs and quality.

Healthcare facilities / Dispensaries

The most significant benefits of traceability for products and materials in the healthcare sector are:

• improving traceability and thereby contributing to patient safety
• reducing the number of supply chain partner disputes
• improving product preparation, shipping and receiving, inventory management, plant localisation, order picking, unitary consolidation/deconsolidation, recycling, constituting finished products.
• saving time in product preparation, shipping and receiving
• facilitating itemized billing
• controlling the costs of production and procurement
• improving the quality of service in medical care units
• improving recall procedures
• optimizing the coordination of orders, receipts, and shipments

In the healthcare industry, logistics manage the flow of information linked to these physical flows, in order to ensure the appropriate handling and positioning of products and materials, products and patient data, and oversees the flow of information. It takes a holistic approach to a company’s many different activities and environment.

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The health industry benefits from this approach by:

• improving the quality of service in medical care units
• improving recall procedures
• optimizing the coordination of orders, receipts, and shipments

GS1 - The global language of business

GS1 is an international not-for-profit foundation that develops and promotes GS1 Identification Keys and GS1 Application Identifiers.GS1 standards provide the global language of business that connects people, places and things. GS1 standards enable businesses to connect and share information and improve their processes.

GS1’s Standards

GS1 standards provide global solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of the supply chain. They enable businesses to connect and share information and improve their processes.

GS1 Standards

GS1 Standards address a wide range of areas within the supply chain. They enable businesses to connect and share information and improve their processes.

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Production
- Receipt of a shipping notice indicating traceability information linked to the raw material and packaging being used.
- Quantity control of merchandise using SSCC.
- Validation of receipt and delivery slip signature.
- Registration of lot/batch numbers and dates.
- Acceptance of primary materials.
- Recording of lot numbers used.
- GTIN assignment and marking for base units and creation of their lot numbers.

Warehousing - Preparation
- Management of physical product in stock and movement using SSCC.
- Management of the separator and storage of products.
- Tracking and correlation of movement.
- Physical inventory.
- Control of logistics units, assignment and management of SSCC.
- Tracking/locating movements. Storing SSCC, logistical unit, and delivery destinations.

Shipping
- Loading.
- Reading and registering SSCC.
- Sending shipping notices to recipients with delivery itemisation.
- Sending shipping orders to the carriers.
- After delivery, the carrier sends a transport status report.
- Integrating information to efficiently coordinate orders, deliveries, and invoices.

Healthcare Delivery
- Services and functional units identified by their GLN send out internal requests using the product’s GTIN.
- Preparation processes, assignment and registration of SSCC, delivery and receiving, all based on the same information as all other logistics processes.
- Sterilization, bleaching and restoring, are all production processes using the full range of GS1 identifiers; GTIN, SSCC, GRAI.
- Tracking internal deliveries is done with the aid of a GRAI, which identifies the material and also allows for tracking, washing, disinfecting, maintenance, etc.
- Delivery traceability is enabled by the link between the GRAI and the delivery contents as indicated by its SSCC.
- Patients, and the services provided to them, are identified using a GSRN, read and registered in a database at each stage and movement of the patient during their hospital stay. The GSRN thus contributes to the safety and traceability of the patient.
- Products are identified by their GTIN + lot/batch number and are recorded in the patient’s medical chart/records so as to ensure the complete safety and traceability of all events that take place during the patient’s stay. This information facilitates itemized billing.

Receiving
- For every participant receiving merchandise:
  - Planning for receipt of goods based on shipping notices.
  - Unloading and SSCC reading.
  - Control of receiving through efficient coordination with shipping notices.
  - Coordinating orders and deliveries, sending acknowledgements of receipt.
  - Entering product data into inventory records.
  - Transmitting information to efficiently manage orders and invoices.

Healthcare facility

Industry

Logistics provider

Description of the Major Supply Chain Processes
Each of these processes might be performed by different organisations or by a single entity.