Implementing global standards across the entire healthcare supply chain could save 22,000-43,000 lives and avert 0.7 to 1.4 million patient disabilities, according to the McKinsey report. Called “Strength in unity: The promise of global standards in healthcare”, the report is based on interviews with 80 thought leaders in the healthcare industry.

The report also found that rolling out a single, global standards-based system will:

- Keep **tens of billions of dollars** in counterfeit drugs out of the legitimate supply chain.
- Enable substantial safety benefits that would reduce healthcare costs by **$40-100 billion**.
- Cost significantly less than two or more systems.

**61 global healthcare leaders have already endorsed the GS1 healthcare standards**

**Sign now** “to support the adoption of the GS1 system of standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility - from manufacturers to patients.”

Please contact Ulrike Kreysa - ulrike.kreysa@gs1.org
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Countries around the world are facing challenges regarding ensuring patient safety and reducing overall costs, which affect the entire healthcare supply chain, from manufacturers through to wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organisations and healthcare providers. These challenges are related to counterfeiting, ineffective product recall, medication errors, and complex supply chains. A single, global standard for product identification and data exchange is critical in addressing these issues and ensuring patient safety and lower costs in the healthcare supply chain.

Overall healthcare costs have been rising for many years, and are expected to grow faster than national income in most countries. Stemming this growth has become a major policy priority. Healthcare trading partners are looking for ways to reduce and control costs. One of the most promising opportunities will come through optimising the supply chain by using global standards.

New research by McKinsey & Company, conducted with the participation of more than 80 healthcare industry leaders around the world, has estimated the benefits and value of adopting global standards in the healthcare supply chain – see the white paper at: www.gs1.org/healthcare/mckinsey

“We (the undersigned) support the adoption of the GS1 system of standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility – from manufacturers to patients.”

GS1 is a not-for-profit, global standards organisation with nearly 40 years’ experience in supply chain optimisation. The GS1 system of standards now spans more than 20 industry sectors, over a million companies in 150 countries and facilitates more than six billion daily transactions. Global adoption of the GS1 system of standards will clearly benefit patients and industry stakeholders worldwide.

Since 2004, the US FDA has required the use of a product identifier and bar code on pharmaceutical products sold in the US; the GS1 system is used by many companies to meet this legal requirement. The global initiative underway to standardise unique medical device identifiers (UDI) will also be able to utilise the GS1 standards. This initiative, involving medical device manufacturers, customers and supply chain partners, as well as governments, primarily aims to enhance patient safety with the added benefit of supporting greater efficiencies in healthcare delivery.

GS1 global standards can become the ONE language of choice for supply chain management and electronic commerce in healthcare and can improve patient safety, patient compliance and will support electronic health records. GS1 global standards ensure compatibility and interoperability of supply chain solutions, not only within an organisation but also within a country, region, and across sectors and borders.

The McKinsey white paper clearly lays out the case for global standards in healthcare. We encourage all industry stakeholders worldwide, including manufacturers, distributors, providers and regulators to adopt the GS1 global system of standards and realise improved patient safety and reduced overall healthcare costs.

The GS1 system of standards provides an effective globally harmonised and integrated framework to manage supply chain information. The undersigned organisations strongly endorse and support GS1 usage and implementation.
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

RUSSELL GARICH
Vice President
Distribution and Logistics Services

Stephen Sichak,
Senior Vice President, Integrated Supply Chain, BD

JITENDRA PRASAD
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
CONTRACTING, PROCUREMENT AND
SUPPLY MANAGEMENT
ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

Madhu Balachandran
Executive Vice President Operations

B. Braun Melsungen AG

Dr. Meinrad Luegan
Member of the Board Division Hospital Care & OPM
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

Mike Duffy
Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing and Supply Chain
Medical Segment, Cardinal Health

Julie Tam
Vice President, Professional and Scientific Affairs
Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association

Neil Lawrence,
Programme leader AIDC technologies
The Department of Health UK

Francesc Miret
Operations Director
FEDERACIO FARMACEUTICA

Deborah Petretich Templeton
Chief, Care Support Services

Lauren Junk
Chair, Healthcare Transformation Group
Vice President Supply Chain, Kaiser Permanente
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

M. Toulouse
CEO
Centre Hospitalier Sud Francilien
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards.
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Mike Alkire
Chief Operating Officer
Premier healthcare alliance

Killian O'Byrne
VP, Global Technology Services

Kevin Neveux
Premier healthcare alliance

Bill Porter
Chief Procurement Officer

Gene Kirtser
President/CEO

Brian Johnson
Chair Rx360 Consortium

Rob van Exan
Director, Immunization Policy, Public Affairs

Paul Broadbridge
Deputy Director, Procurement and Supply Chain Management
Department for Health and Ageing

Jeff Stevens - President
The Stephens Company Limited

Craig Doyle
Group Manager Procurement
St Vincent’s Health Australia
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards