

# The Supply Chain Modernisation of Pharmaceutical Products in the Hospital Authority in Hong Kong the "why, what, how and when"



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### Hospital Authority, Hong Kong

- A statutory body established on 1 December '90
- Manages all public hospitals in HK
  - = 41 public hospitals (= 27,900 hospital beds)
  - + 49 specialist + 74 general clinics
- Total of 59,970 staff
  - = 5,475 Doctors + 20,522 Nurses + 5,834 Allied Health
- 2011/12 Government Funding: ~ USD 4.74B
- Annual Drug budget = USD 387millions (about 8-10% of HA's overall budget)
- Covers all drug dispensed to in-patients and out-patients
- About 1200 drug items in the drug list









### Magnitude of our daily business

Transaction types	Units
Dispensed Items	215,000
Dispensed Prescriptions	66,000
No. of Patients Served	58,000
No. of Suppliers dealt with	60
No. of Purchase Orders made	845
Stock Receive in HK\$	36M
No. of Items involved in stock receipts	1,600
No. of Stores for Stock Receipt/issue	80
No. of Movement Transactions in these stores	2,400



### Quality, Safety and Efficiency in drug distribution/medication use





Into pharmacy stores



Out from pharmacy



Into dispensing



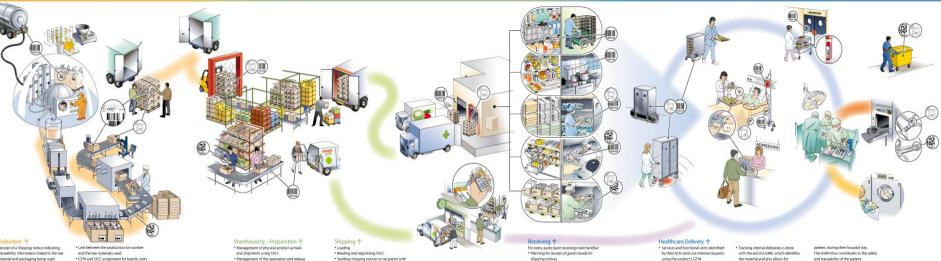
To point of care patient areas



Description of the Major Supply Chain Processes

ontent of logistic units: GTIN + lot/batch

Healthcare facility  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ 



GTIN assignment and marking for base units and creation of their lot numbers

 Creation of logistic units, assignment and remarking of SSCC.

Tracking inventory movements, linking S
product, lot/batch number, and delivery

- Sending shipping notices to recipients with
- After delivery, the carrier sends a transpor

- manage orders and invoices.

- using the product's GTIN.
- receiving, all based on the same information as all other logistic
- Sterilization, bleaching and resto
- the material and also allows for
- Delivery traceability is enabled by ti
- Patients, and the services provided t This information facilitates itemize
- and traceability of the patient. Products are identified by their GTIN in the patient's medical chart/record so as to ensure the complete safety and raceability of all events that take place during the patient's stay.

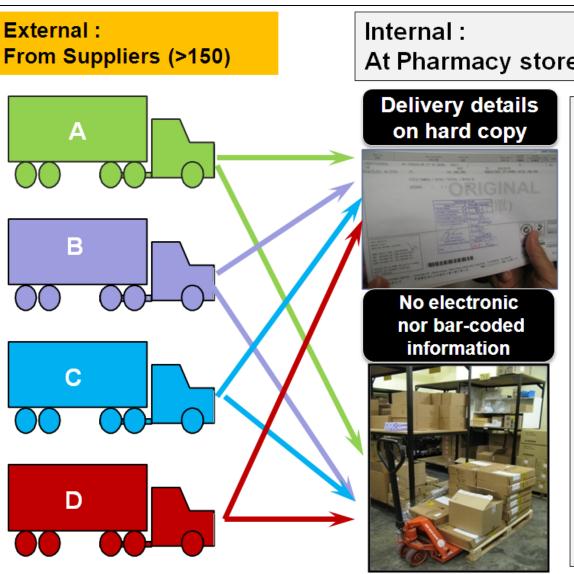


The backend of pharmacy operations in our pharmacy stores serving the hospitals, SOPC & GOPC



- Where do our drugs come from ?
- How to optimise the movement of drugs
- What are the logistics in stock receipts?
- What are the processes?
- How to track and trace the Supply Chain '

#### The Current Practice – drug delivery into stores



- At Pharmacy stores (>100) in 7 clusters
  - 1. Manual <u>checking</u> of standard information
    - manufacturer
    - country of origin
    - quantity
    - lot no., expiry date, etc.
  - 2. Manual <u>entry</u> of standard information into Pharmacy system
  - 3. Stocking onto the shelves in the Pharmacy stores

#### **Our current pharmacy stores**

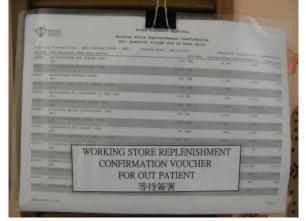
(too many, too small ....., manual processes)















### Drug distribution from pharmacy stores (today's practice)







- Pharmacy working stores (for drug dispensing to out & in-patients & issue to wards)
- · Manual entry of
  - lot no. & expiry date
- No functionality to enable auto track and trace lot no. & expiry information





3 million imported tablets were ineffective

#### Drug's expiry date was faked

#### Ella Lee and Phyllis Tsang

More than 3 million tablets of a painkiller imported by a Hong Kong company carried a fabricated expiry date, the Department of Health revealed

The drug cosalgesic, imported by Unipharm Trading from Britain, was found to have carried a fake expiry date one year later than what it

The department said there was "no immediate safety, efficacy or quality concern".

"However, people should stop using these two batches of cosalgesic and seek advice from doctors, dentists or pharmacists as appropriate on the use of alternative drugs," a department spokesman said.

Doctors said drug products with fabricated expiry dates would not be as effective as they should be.

The Department of Health said on Thursday that Unipharm had illegally packaged more than 2 million amitriptyline tablets, an antidepressant

Police have arrested two employees of the company.

Tests on Unipharm's amitripty line "have so far indicated no micro biological contamination", a spokesman said. The department had not suspended the company's licence yesterday, but an investigation was

The department said it was in-formed by the UK manufacturer that the expiry dates of the two batches of cosalgesic tablets – 3.6 million in total – numbered CX 3751 and CX 3754 and imported by Unipharm were May 2009 and June 2009 respectively.

But the expiry dates printed on the two batches of drugs found in Unipharm were June 2010. The case will be referred to police for further investigation," the department said.

A total of 3,599 bottles of batch no CX3751 and 9 bottles of batch no CX 3754 were sold to the market. Each bottle contains 1,000 tablets. One mislabelled bottle of the CX3751 batch was found on the company's

Unipharm has recalled the drugs. People who possess cosalgesic from the two batches are advised to contact Unipharm on its 2499 1373 looks at production enviro hotline. The latest incident was the and records like they did at pre

second falsified expiry date

Last week, the depart revoked Marching Pharmac Limited's licence for a month with an indicated shelf-life o years when the products only

two-year shelf life. William Chui Chun-ming, tion director of the Society of I tal Pharmacists, called on the g ment to set up a drug safety which could access the result tests done on drugs made or o

uted in Hong Kong. Kenneth Lee Kwing-chin, nese University's school of p acy, said Department of inspectors should monitor dr duction by pharmaceutical co nies, rather than just taking

### Cancer patient victim of chemotherapy blunder

#### Official hints at grim outlook for drug firms

#### Ng Yuk-bang and Sary Chesnel

Half of the 15 local drug makers may not survive after the Hospital Authority adopts new drug procurement excedures, an authority source said

The source also said the authority would file a breach-of-contract law suit against Horophorm Laborato ties, a local drug maker whose allopurinol drugwas found to contain levels of Mucorales fungus III times above the allowable limit, and which was linked to the deaths of six hospital

The authority was also considering banning drug makers isvolved in vocat problems from sendering for future authority drug-procurement

Seven measures would be enforced in the short term to enhance drug purchasing authority chairman Anthony Wu Ting yok said yourseley up to the public after a board meeting. The measures

- The surfacing will consider buying igh volume and high risk drugs, such as the anni-diabetes drug metformin, from multiple suppliers, so patients can obtain replacements none quickly in case of recalls.
- Drug makers will be required to produce evidence of microbiological osting (tests for fungi and bacteria) on drugs used on high risk patients
- as a prerequisite for procurement. . The authority will also sample a wider range of drugs for microbiological testing in addition to the chemical tests it already does.
- · Suppliers will need to provide. age information on delivery to the authority can theck drugs many
- . The authority will ask the Department of Health for more information regarding drug-registration details, suth as pack stars.
- · Computer systems in pharmacies will be cohunced so that drags, especially ones whose use by dates have espired, can be trucked more elliciently. A barcode system will be
- · Adrug-quality assumment office will be established to handle frontline

Mr Wo said it was most triportant to restore public cumfidence.

We hope createres will know the our drugs are safe and they can use them without any words," he said.

The authority will meet drug makers ternomow to discuss its me-Asked to assess the authority's performance in handling the drug

scare. Mr Wa declined to comment on the assur-"Whether our performance has

tem good or not is up to the public to

At present, almost 15 per cent of the drugs dispensed in public hospi-

#### Whether our performance has been good or not is

Anthony Walling-yalk,



tals come from one supplier, according to a Food and Health Bureau

rport to the Legislative Council.

The surfacily boys 3,200 types of trugs, of which 50 per centare generic drup whose paterits have expired, while 350 drugs purchased by the authority are produced locally.

Chaster services director Cheung Wai Itan said multiple suppliers for all types of drugs were not necessary.

If the same drug has different sizes and colours, patients and drug dispensers would be confused." he

Of the marry 20,000 types of drugs that are registered in Hong Kong, about 70 per cent are imported.

was within the normal range and the dosage for the remaining treatment was adjusted to compensate on the following day.

The dosage applied did not exceed the overall prescribed amount, the hospital said.

The hospital would conduct an investigation and review the protocols on preparing drugs, it said. The pharmacy staff responsible would be handled according to "human resources protocols".

"The more serious side effects of Cytarabine overdoses] stem from exceeding amounts of toxicity This

blunder to the Hospital Authority. The family has since complained to the media about the incident.

Meanwhile, a Hospital Authority newsletter reported two more cases of surgical gaffes that occurred recently, the first involving a piece of gauze left in a woman's vagina after childbirth.

The patient complained of vaginal pain during a check-up 14 days after delivery.

Her complaint led to the discovery of the retained gauze.

The midwife's failure to confirm

#### Medical malpractice adds up to \$300m hospitals bill

#### Matthew Lee

More than HK\$300 million in compensation and litigation costs for medical malpractice has been paid since the establishment of the Hospital Authority in 1992, the health chief said on Wednesday.

About HK\$224 million of the total HK\$307 million paid out was for compensation, the rest included legal costs and out-of-court settlements.

The figure shows a decreasing trend since 1999, when more than HK\$44 million was paid in that single year.

Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food York Chow cited the figures in Legco in response to a question by medical sector lawmaker Kwok Ka-ki

Chow said the malpractice costs were rooted in a lack of confidence between patients and doctors.

"With patients feeling dissatisfied with the treatment process or outcome, an attending doctor has the responsibility to exercise sound professional judgment in arriving at the prognosis, to obtain the patient and his family's agreement and endorsement of the medical procedures to be undertaken, and to give them a clear explanation so that they would have realistic expectation of the treatment outcome."

He believes regular training and workshops held for the staff are enough to educate staff on how to communicate with patients.

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"Insanity:
Continuing to do the same thing and expecting different results."

- Albert Einstein

# The Journey on SCM begun when HA announced in March 2009 – The Key Initiatives

- 6. Enhance the HA's Pharmaceutical IT systems to improve controls by moving progressively towards:
  - introducing bar coding
  - automatically check what is received against what was ordered
  - automatically tract and trace drugs to the point of issue and
  - prevent dispensing of expired items



Thur, 26 March 2009

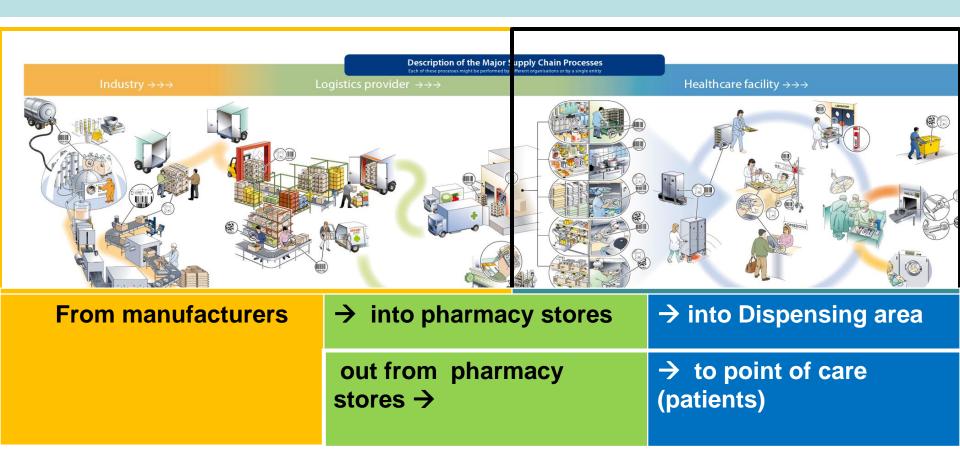
#### Key initiatives to enhance HA's pharmaceutical products procurement system

To ensure drug quality and safeguard patient safety, the HA announced today the following key initiatives to enhance our pharmaceutical products procurement system:

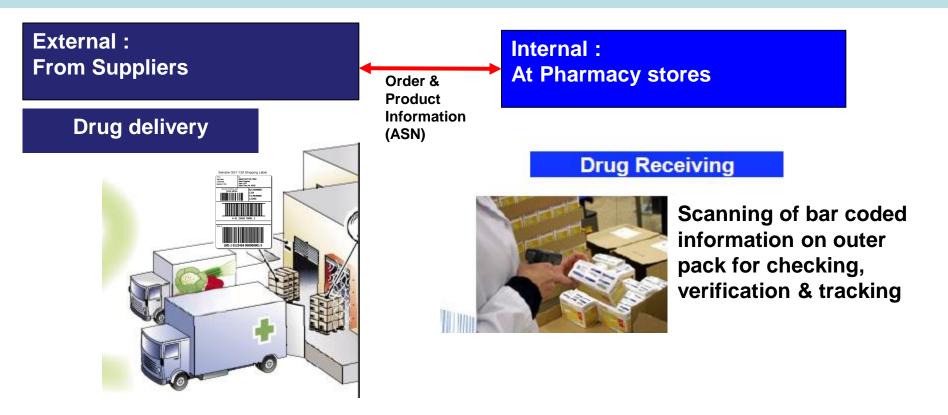
- Require manufacturers to introduce microbiology testing as a prerequisite to
  procurement for high risk drug items and for provision of batch release reports
  on delivery of drug products.
- Enhance the HA's sample testing to include a wider range of drugs and microbiology testing based on risk levels.
- Require suppliers to provide additional standard information for drug delivery documentation to enable more effective physical checking of goods received.
- Work with the Department of Health to improve ease of access to key additional registration details, including pack sizes to strengthen regulatory compliance.
- Consider introducing multi-source for high volume/risk drugs.
- Enhance the HA's Pharmaceutical IT systems to improve controls by moving progressively towards:
  - Introducing bar coding;
  - · Automatically check what is received against what was ordered;
  - · Automatically track and trace drugs to the point of issue; and
  - Prevent dispensing of expired items.
  - Establish a Drug Quality Assurance Office to enhance quality monitoring and implementation of improvement initiatives.



### 1<sup>st</sup> step – identify the need to Modernise the Supply Chain on Pharmaceutical Products



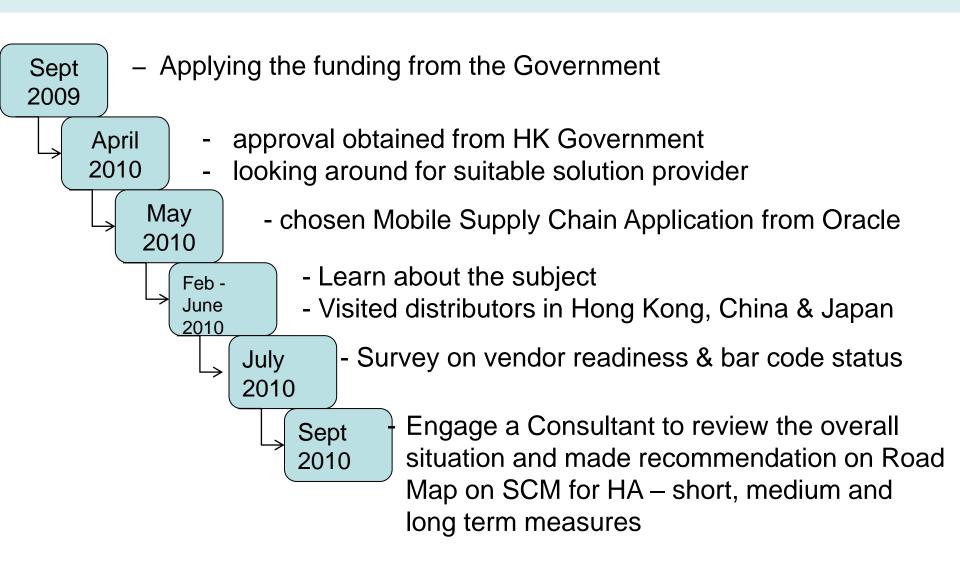
#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Step – Defining what we want to do in SCM?



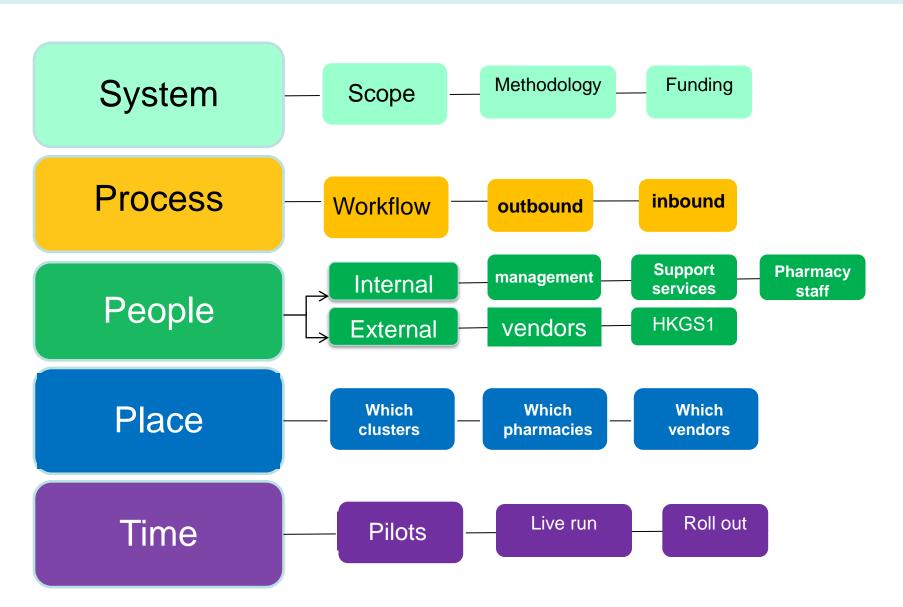
Enable track and trace of product movement from suppliers to pharmacy stores through MSCA with provision of :

- Advance Shipping Notice (ASN) from suppliers to pharmacy ERP to verify PO
- Bar coded information on individual product and outer delivery pack from suppliers to verify required information, manufacturer, lot no., expiry dates etc

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Step: Finding out the means and How's to do the project



## Supply Chain Modernisation on pharmaceutical products



### Scope of MSCA

#### What is Mobile Supply Chain Application?

- Making use of mobile devices to support the Supply Chain Process from Goods receipt to Goods issue as much as possible
- Use wireless connection, scanners, bar codes, data transmission
- Minimize manual data entry
- Improve accuracy & efficiency of data capture
- Not RFID but bar codes





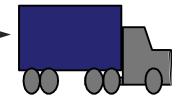




#### The process flow in MSCA



Advanced Shipping Notice (ASN)







Entire shipment with bar coded SSCC on each logistic unit

#### **Internal: At Pharmacy stores**

When goods arrive

Before goods arrive	1.	Pri	or val	idation	of manufa	cturer,	country of	origin, quantity, etc.
		_					1 4	

- 2. Online provision of lot no, expiry date
- 3. Scan outer pack bar code label to verify Purchase Order (PO)
  - 4. PO details displayed in scanner for inspection
  - 5. Confirm receipt & instant update into system
- Stock into stores 6. Pack-unpack containers to separate items
  - 7. Scan GTIN with lot no. expiry date and confirm qty
  - 8. Stock to pre-defined location in stores
- Drug distribution 9. Enable lot-control with track-and-trace functionality











### 4th step: Defining our action plans

#### **External**

#### HKGS1:

- Technical guidelines
- industry standards on ASN, SSCC, GTIN,GLN

#### Pharmaceutical vendors:

- System interface to HA
- GTIN on smallest order unit
- bar code readiness to include GTIN, Qty, BN, Expiry date
- shipper case & logistic units
- Testing and preparation

#### Internal

#### Hospital side:

- Management buy in
- Support services
- Pharmacies

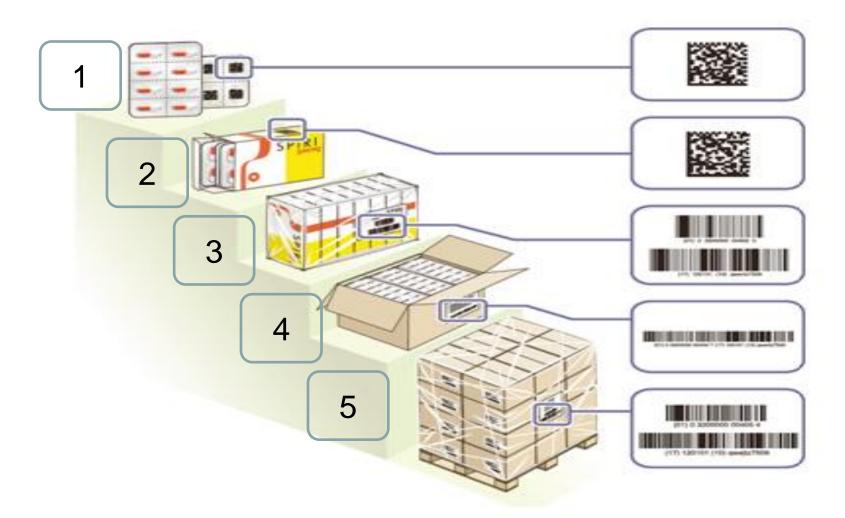
#### Engagement & support :

- implementing MSCA
- renovating stores & facilities
- adding manpower
- supporting training

### Vendor Engagement

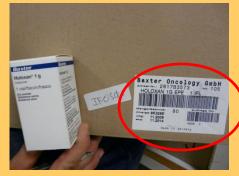
- No less than 5 vendor briefings, 20 meetings, training workshops, testing, emails, etc...
  - Clarifications on project objectives, process, technical requirement, time frame.....
  - Frequently Ask Questions
- Mock ups on bar code labels,
- EDI testing
- End to End testing with mock up products
- On site testing at pilot sites

# What is the status of bar code on different levels of pharmaceutical products?



### Examples of problems encountered on bar codes

Difficulties to identify the correct bar code to scan





Some bar codes are no in black and white



AI (241) which is a customer Part Number and cannot be used as an item identifier



Not a GTIN bar code, only a supplier Item bar code



### Full set of bar code on Level 2

## Full set of bar code on Level 4







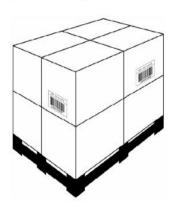
### The HA requirement on GTIN and bar codes on the different levels of pack

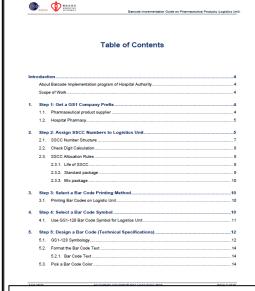
Packaging Hierarchy	Example	Identification Key	Example	Bar code	Bar Code Type
Primary Packaging	A pill in blister cell  Out to	No	NA	No	NA
Ordering base unit	2 blisters in 1 box	GTIN✓	GTIN A: 489-1668-00002-2	Optional	GS1-128, GS1 Data Bar, GS1 Data Matrix, EAN/UPC.
Multi Pack	7 boxed bound to create one package	No	NA	No	NA
Case	8 multi pack in a corrugated cardboard cartons	Optional	GTIN B: 489-1668-00001-5 (1 unit of GTIN B = 56 units of GTIN A)	<b>✓</b>	GS1-128, GS1 Data Matrix
Logistic Unit	Pallet of 8 cases	sscc√	SSCC: 1-489-1668- 000000001-2	<b>√</b>	GS1-128

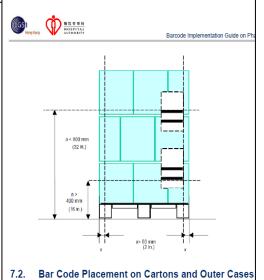
### Standards provided by GS1



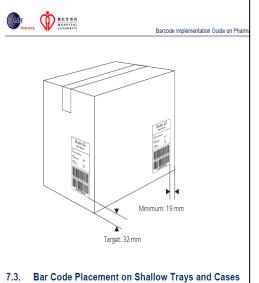
The symbol including, its Quiet Zones, should be at edge to avoid damage.













#### **GS1 Identifiers in Healthcare**

GS1 Key	Represented Information
GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)	Identification of Healthcare Product
GLN (Global Location Number)	Identification of Location & Legal Entity
GSRN (Global Service Relation Number)	Identification of Patient & Care Giver
Application Identifier	Represented Information
AI(01)	Global Trade Item Number
AI(10)	Batch Number
AI(17)	Expiration Date
AI(21)	Serial Number

<sup>\*</sup> GS1 keys & Application Identifiers are recognised by ISO.

**Data Structure of a GTIN** GTIN-13 **GS1 PREFIX GS1 COMPANY** CHECK DIGIT NUMBER To identify territory of To identify the unique Calculated by modulo-10 the GS1 organization To identify the member product and service: formula to serve as an issuing the number. assigned by the company; assigned by accuracy check on the In Hong Kong, the the local GS1 member company entire number by **GS1** Prefix assigned organization scanning devices. to GS1 HK is 489



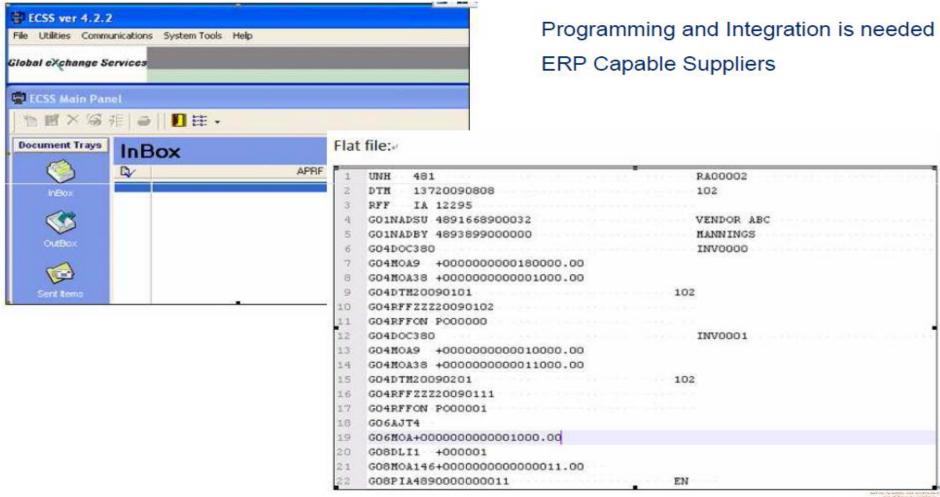
#### Batch Level Identification & Expiration Control

- For batch control or expiry date control, which are common to healthcare items, people may prefer encoding batch number and expiration date in barcode.
- · GS1 System provides data structure standard for them as well:
  - Batch number Alphanumeric data format with variable length up to 20 characters
  - Expiration date Numeric data format (YYMMDD) with fixed length of 6 digits

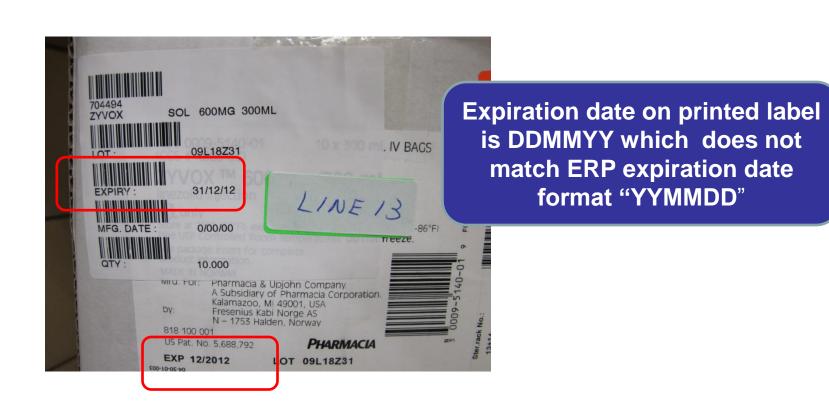




### Cat A – EDI Gateway (EDI PO, PO Response, PO Change, ASN, Invoice)



#### **Problem on Expiration date format**



#### Tendering of Hardware & printers & labels



### Hospitals side

- ERP System
  - Early engagement
  - Data preparation
  - Data cleansing
  - Data conversion
- MSCA / SCM
  - Hospitals Stores Facilities
- Manpower
- Training

# Stores in Queen Elizabeth Hospital







# Ultimate conditions of our pharmacy stores









#### The Challenges encountered

infrastructure



- Entire SCM process is voluntary for vendors
- No credit, no penalty (yet)
- Depends on the vendors readiness & willingness & ability
- first batch involving 13 vendors (out of 150+)
- Pharmacy users' acceptance to adopt new processes
- Increase in manpower with skills and knowledge on SCM
- Installation of wi fi in our pharmacy stores, modernise the environment, increase space and layout....
- Choice of hardware,
- Training of staff, vendors....

• . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

technology



#### Full scale SCM – external dependencies

Tracking from manufacturers /suppliers into pharmacy stores

Phase I (2011/12)	<ul> <li>Persuading vendors to comply with requirement on system support, GTIN, Bar codes</li> <li>Provide support e.g. education, training, defining requirement</li> <li>No mandates</li> </ul>
Phase I/II (2012/13 2013/14)	- Increasing the no. of vendors to comply with requirement on system support, GTIN, Bar codes
Phase II (2014/15)	<ul> <li>Built into procurement requirement</li> <li>Mandatory requirement for vendors</li> <li>Increasing vendors compliance with full requirement</li> </ul>

### Full scale SCM internal dependencies

Stage I

Tracking from manufacturers/suppliers into pharmacy stores -only possible for vendors which are ready

Stage II

Tracking from pharmacy stores to issue areas -only possible for vendors who are ready on the level 2 bar codes availabilities

only possible for selected areas of the stores

**Description of the Major Supply Chain Processes** 

-only for goods receipt process

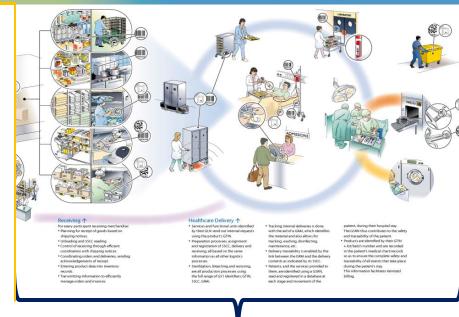
Healthcare facility  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$ 





dustry  $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$  Logistics provider  $\rightarrow \rightarrow$ 

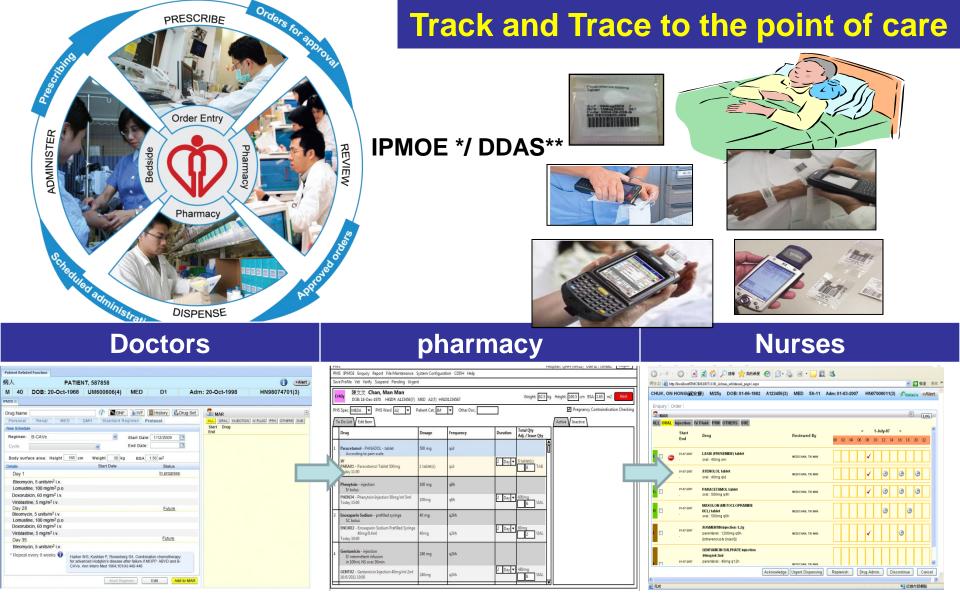
#### Healthcare facility $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$



#### Stage II

#### **IPMOE \*/ DDAS\*\***

\*IPMOE = In-patient Medication Order Entry
\*\*DDAS= Drug Distribution and Administration System



- Electronic prescribing by clinicians
- Vetting & dispensing with workflow reengineering at Pharmacies
- Drug administration by nurses using BCMA

#### The Journey is long & tough





#### **Insanity:**

Continuing to believe that if we insist and persist, we can make the difference, some day ....

- S C Chiang