



The Global Language of Business

# Utilising GS1 barcodes for improved patient safety with reference to retail POS systems

GS1 Healthcare Webinar

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Dr. Makoto Sawada, Research Associate in the Department of Anesthesiology  
Tokai University Hospital in Japan

January 16, 2020



# Welcome and thank you for attending!



- Welcome to our **January 2020** webinar.

Thank you to our guest speaker **Dr. Makoto Sawada**, Research Associate in the Department of Anaesthesiology, Tokai University Hospital in Japan

- Some housekeeping for today:
  - All attendees will be in listening-only mode
  - If you have questions during the presentation, please type them into the questions area and these will be monitored then answered at the end of the call
- After the webinar:
  - Within a week, the recording will be posted to: [http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/hpac\\_webinars](http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/hpac_webinars)
  - All previous webinars are also posted to this location, so please feel free to use this resource and share the link



**Create a forum for the global clinical provider environment for thought leaders and adopters of GS1 Standards in healthcare. The final goal: improve patient safety, cost efficiency and staff productivity through the implementation of GS1 standards.**

**A forum for sharing and discussion**

**Identification of projects and case studies**

**A source of expertise and advice**

- The practical realities of implementation of GS1 Standards in the care giving environment in regard to the impact on clinical care and patient interaction
- Supporting the adoption of GS1 Standards in healthcare providers and retail pharmacies
- For publication, presentation and sharing
- To those involved in GS1 standards development, the wider Healthcare stakeholder community and senior executives/decision-makers to gain their buy-in and support for implementation of GS1 Standards

# Specific GS1 Healthcare Activities



## Webinars

- Bimonthly webinars open to all stakeholders interested in learning about GS1 standards implementation in the care giving environment.
- [http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/hpac\\_webinars](http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/hpac_webinars)

## Awards

- At each global GS1 Healthcare Conference
- Provider Implementation Best Case Study Award
- Provider Recognition Award
- The prize: travel & accommodation to attend the next GS1 Healthcare conference
- <http://www.gs1.org/healthcare/hpac>

**GS1 Healthcare holds two global conferences per year.  
The next conference will be in Paris, France from March 24–26, 2020.  
We will have significant Healthcare Provider participation on the agenda.**



# Utilising GS1 barcodes for improved patient safety with reference to retail POS systems

Dr. Makoto Sawada

Research Associate in the Department of Anaesthesiology  
Tokai University Hospital



# Self-introduction



# Who am I



## Dr. Makoto Sawada



- 14 years as an anaesthesiologist at Tokai University Hospital, Japan
- 30+ years experience with IT systems
- Responsible for surgical information systems
- Leads GS1 standard/barcode implementation at Tokai University Hospital

# Background



The GS1 barcode is a **medical information system hub** for handling medical products.

- **Bring multiple uses**
- **Improve safety and efficiency**
- **System construction is inexpensive**





# Agenda

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1. **GS1 barcode usage in the retail sector in Japan**
2. **Introduction of Tokai University Hospital**
3. **Study on effectiveness of GS1 barcodes in hospitals**

Safety

Efficiency

Information utilization

4. **Summary**

# 1. GS1 barcode usage in the retail sector in Japan



# GS1 barcode in the retail sector



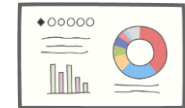
*Recall support  
Expiration date  
confirmation  
**safety***



***Efficiency**  
Labour saving  
Data linkage*



***Information  
utilisation**  
Sales management  
Inventory control*





## **Battery Performance Alert and Cybersecurity Firmware Updates for Certain Abbott (formerly St. Jude Medical) Implantable Cardiac Devices: FDA Safety Communication**



**Date Issued:**

April 17, 2018



# Healthcare crisis



- Deterioration of hospital management is a social problem in Japan.
- It can lead to inadequate operations and suspension of medical service provision.

日本経済新聞

## 424病院は「再編検討を」 厚労省、全国のリスト公表

2019/9/26 15:10 | 日本経済新聞 電子版

厚生労働省は26日、市町村などが運営する公立病院と日本赤十字社などが運営する公的病院の25%超にあたる全国424の病院について「再編統合について特に議論が必要」とする分析をまとめ、病院名を公表した。診療実績が少なく、非効率な医療を招いているためだ。ベッド数や診療機能の縮小なども含む再編を地域で検討し、2020年9月までに対応策を決めるよう求めた。

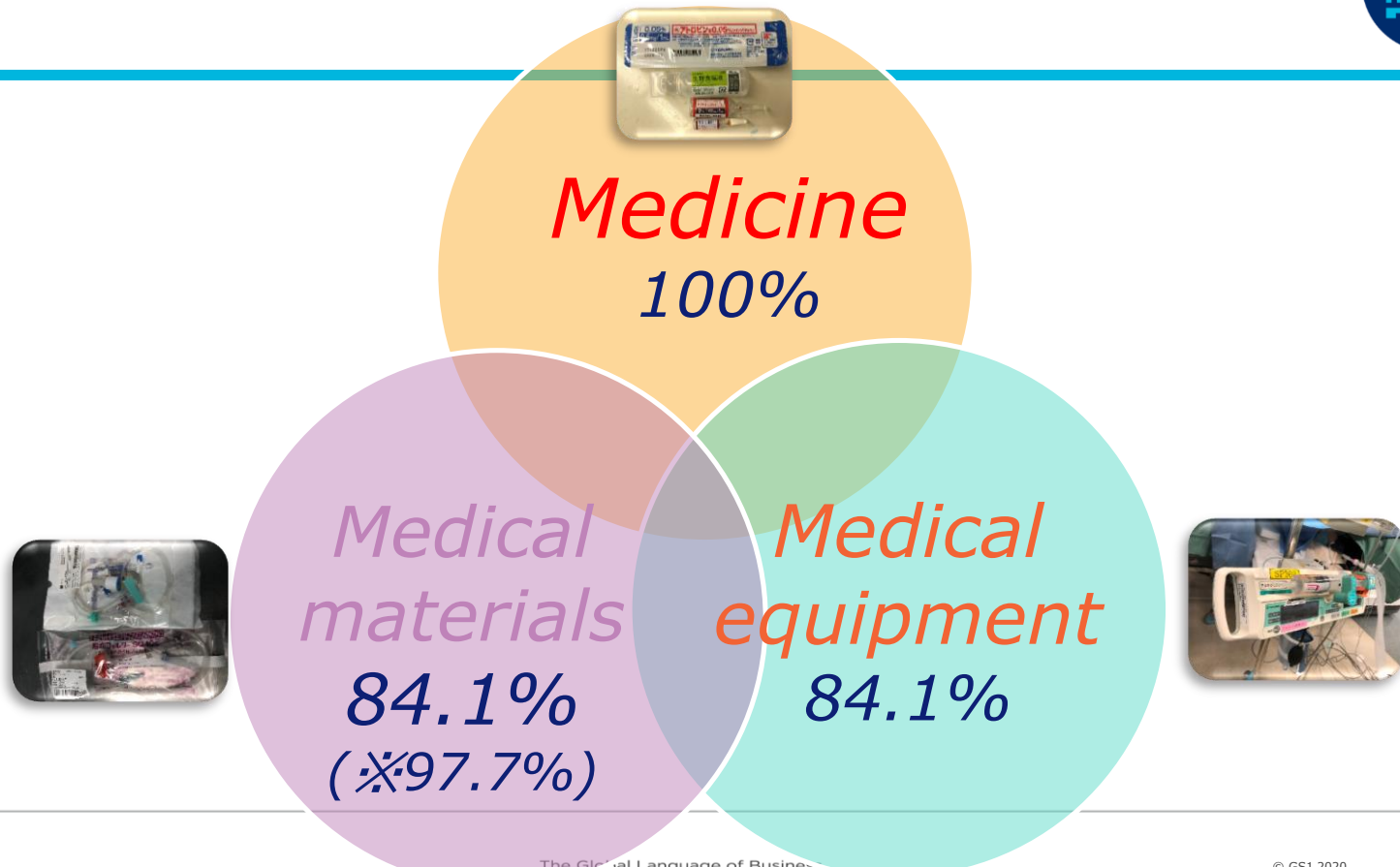
一般病院赤字、利益率マイナス2.7% 診療所、薬局は黒字維持 18年度厚労省調査

画像をフォロー



## Improved hospital management is important for patients

# GS1 barcode display rate for medical products in Japan



# Why can't hospitals use GS1 barcodes?

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- **We should learn from other industries** in this regard for the following reasons:
  - Effectiveness is clear
  - Low cost
  - Easy system construction
  - Operation problems are easy to solve

Bringing the results in the retail sector to healthcare!

# What we do now

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# Why not spread the use of GS1 barcodes?



- In 2018, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare conducted a questionnaire survey about the use of GS1 barcodes in 1227 hospitals.

According to the survey, the **implementation costs** and **low awareness** on GS1 standards are the main obstacles faced by hospitals.



Tokai University Hospital conducted four studies to demonstrate the benefits of GS1 barcodes

## 2. Introduction of Tokai University Hospital





- Acute care hospital near Tokyo
  - Diagnosis and treatment departments 35
  - Hospital beds 804
  - Operations 12,522 (2018)
  - Medical materials registered in master data 54,282
- **Utilise GS1 barcodes for medical materials management in the operation theatres.**
- Record product names, lot numbers and expiry dates with GS1 barcodes.



# How the GS1 barcode was introduced



**Listen to the need** from each department.



Head nurse

Is there a simple medical material accounting method?

Organizing the requests.  
Selecting GS1 barcode as the best technology.



Surgeons

Want to manage lot/batch and serial numbers easily

**Providing the required technology** is the key to success.



System

department

Eliminate paper, and digitise

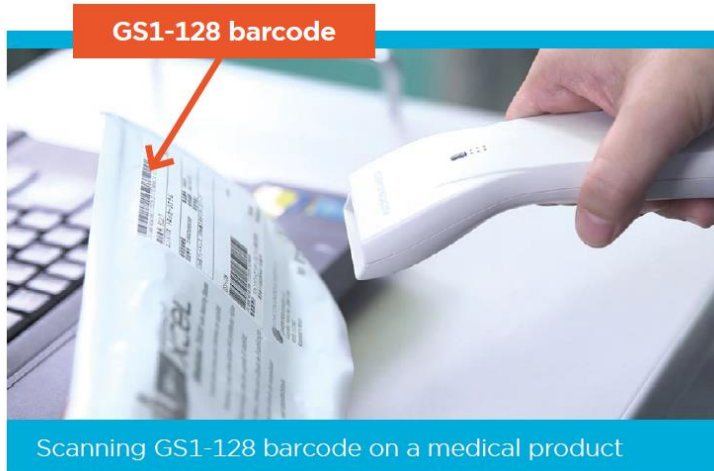


# Collect the empty packages of medical products



To record medical product use history

- During a surgical operation, nurses store the empty packages of medical products that are used for an operation in a plastic bag.
- Then, nurses scan the GS1-128 barcodes on those packages when they are not busy during the operation.



Scanning GS1-128 barcode on a medical product



Usage of Business

# Scan the barcodes



- By scanning barcodes, the management system imports data from the GS1-128 barcode and automatically saves the GTIN, the lot or serial number and the expiration date.
- The management system automatically sends the data to the EMR system.

**Expiration Date**

**Product Name**

**GTIN**

**Lot No.**

Data is captured from scanning the GS1-128 barcode and recorded in the operating theatre management system.

# How to handle materials without a barcode



- For medical products without a barcode on their primary packages or for extremely small products such as brain surgery clips, we created a barcode sheet by copying the barcodes on their secondary packages.

## Barcode sheet



品名・規格		バーコード	数量
4946329137392	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-02 No.2,直		1
4946329137972	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-65 No.65,弱弯		1
4946329137866	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-53 No.53,ハイオネット		1
4946329137477	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-10 No.10,直		1
4946329137392	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-02 No.2,直		1
4946329137859	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-52 No.52,直		1
	杉田チタンクリップⅡ 17-001-51 No.51,直		1

# Before and after the implementation of GS1 barcodes



## Before the implementation of the system

During or after an operation, nurses count the number of medical products used for the operation and fill out a cost bill form.

In addition, they peel off product labels, which include information such as product name, lot number, and expiration date, from their packages, and put them onto a recording form.

Workers of operation room scan the two forms using a image scanner to record into EMR system as medical history.

The cost bill form is sent to the division which is in charge of reimbursement claims. Workers there enter the information on the form into the reimbursement system manually to calculate the cost of the operation.

Paperwork

## After the implementation of the system

During an operation, nurses scan GS1-128 barcodes of medical products. The product name, GTIN and lot number are automatically recorded into the system.

Data is automatically forwarded to the EMR system.

Data is automatically forwarded to the reimbursement claim system.

A scan



# Overview of medical information systems



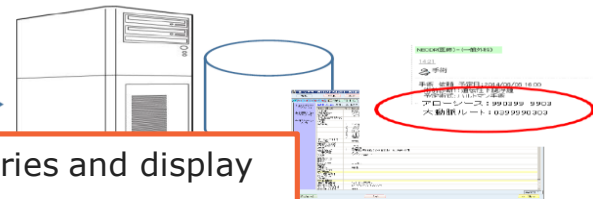
## Data flow of medical materials

### Surgical information system



Register product information with GS1 barcodes

### Electronic medical record



Receive use histories and display the information

Collect medical material information into data warehouse

### Reference system



Analyse usage data of medical materials

DWH

### Accounting system



Receive the information for reimbursement



# System modification costs for GS1 Barcodes

- System development (Initial)
    - Modification of electronic medical record systems \$55,000
    - Development cost of medical materials master data (incl. GTINs) \$33,000
  - System maintenance
    - Management of master data \$1,100/m
- <Total amount>
- |              |          |                   |           |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| Initial cost | \$88,000 | Maintenance costs | \$1,100/m |
|--------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|

Using established standard technology

**No need for in-hospital barcode issuing system**

**No need for label printing and printer**

**Reduction of labour costs** attaching barcode labels in hospital

**Realised the inexpensive implementation of GS1 barcodes**

# 3. Study on effectiveness of GS1 barcode in hospitals



# The national project for traceability utilising GS1 barcodes



- Tokai University Hospital joined the national project for traceability of medical products.
- The outcomes of four studies in the hospital clearly showed the benefits of GS1 barcodes.

## <What we want>

Safety improvement	: Check recall information and expiration dates
Efficiency	: Reduce data entry burden
Data utilization	: Confirm GS1 barcode display rate is high enough to record medical materials

# Study 1 Safety improvement: Recall cases



- Purpose : Ensure traceability when recall occurs
- Method : Randomly assign four products as being recalled and find the target products.
- Compare detection time in the following two groups
  - ✓ **Manual check group** : Visually check the lot numbers stored in the electronic medical record in PDF format
  - ✓ **System check group** : Search by the lot numbers recorded in DWH
- Material type and patient numbers  
(Cardiac pacemaker, artificial knee joint, artificial hip joint, artificial shoulder joint)

Number of patients who may have used the product	10-50 /item
Actually used	1 or 2 / item

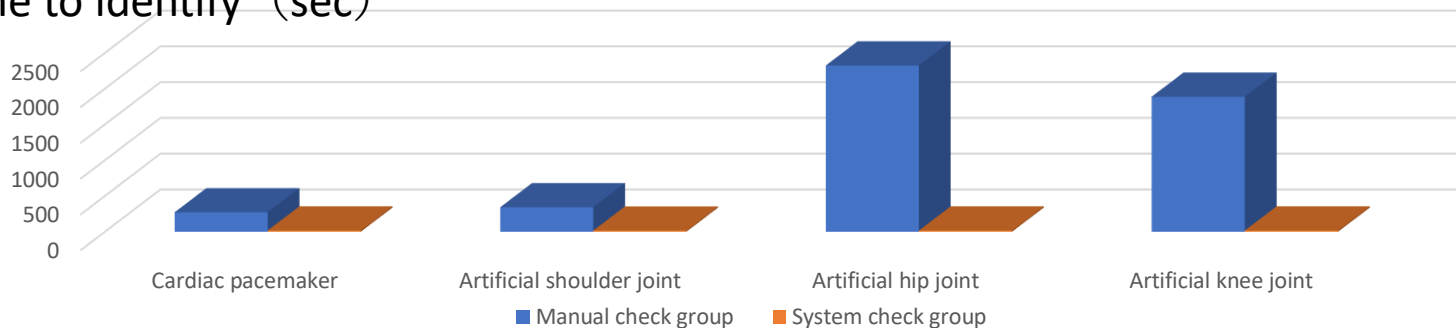
# Study 1 Result



**Manual check group** : Time was required in proportion to the number of patients (Approx. 1 minute / person)

**System check group** : Identified in about 18 seconds **regardless of the number of patients**

Time to identify (sec)



Manual check group reported **feeling anxious about oversights** when confirmation exceeded 30 patients.

For managing recalls, it is necessary to build a database that can record lot numbers

# Study 2 Improved patient safety : Expiry date confirmation



- Method:
  - ✓ Create expired dummy product labels, and attach them to products.
  - ✓ Inform staff of expired products, and encourage them to check visually.
  - ✓ After the visual check, staff scan the barcode on the label.
- This trial took place three times over several days.

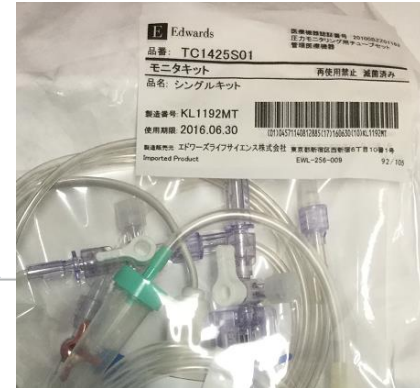
Normal label



Modified label



Product with a  
modified label



# Alert function



When a dummy barcodes was scanned, meaning that the staff overlooked an expired product, a warning is displayed as shown in the figure.

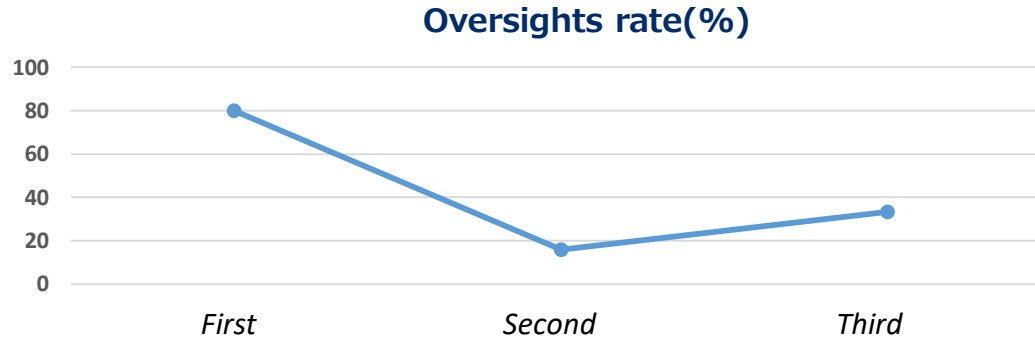
3	入室中	シラシラ	木	手帳	薬物投与記録表	終了			
形式・時間・計算		薬剤・輸液・輸血		診療材料		設定内容一覧			
材料									
名称		合計数量	差分量	破損	JAN	ロット	シリアル	滅菌期限	サンプル数量
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0LB型		1	個	1	個	454405004163	2601309	190201	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0200730 30Fr, I.D. 7mm		1	本	1	本	454405004130	2602166	190401	
KILIAN & SON 気管内チューブ N4439910 C0R50 12x130mm		1	個	1	個	060791511646	1267530	190323	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0LB型 0202731 33Fr, I.D. 7.5mm		1	個	1	個	454405004164	2601908	190323	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0200733 33Fr, I.D. 8mm		1	本	1	本	454405004132	2602685	190401	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0200735 35Fr, I.D. 8.5mm		1	本	1	本	454405004133	2500658	190401	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0200728 28Fr, I.D. 6.5mm		1	本	1	本	454405004129	2602514	190401	
グッドラック・システム気管内チューブホルダー GP401A025 4Fr, Lg 4cm		1	本	1	本	454366000897	M0160404A	190301	
ファイバークラウド気管内チューブ 0110505 E-5, O.D. 3.5mm, Lg		1	本	1	本	454405003813	2601058	190201	
ユニバース気管内チューブ 0200726 26Fr, I.D. 6mm		1	本	1	本	454405004128	2508164	190301	
ラジカル 0960105 I.D. 13.5mm, O.D. 16.5mm		2	個	2	個	454405004022	8502484		
KILIAN & SON 気管内チューブ N4439910 C0R47 12x100mm		1	個	1	個	060791511645	1262190	190112	
パノラスタレーンAR 0121008 A, No. 6, O.D. 8mm, Lg 30cm		1	本	1	本	454405003957	2602277	190401	



# Study 2 Result



This figure shows the oversights rate by visual checks.



- The decrease in the second and third oversights rate may be due to the fact that the first was a training for the second and third.
- However, we **could not completely eliminate errors**.
- In operation theatres, staff handle many materials, so it is **almost impossible to prevent oversights completely** even after training.

The alert function was very effective because it found all the oversights.



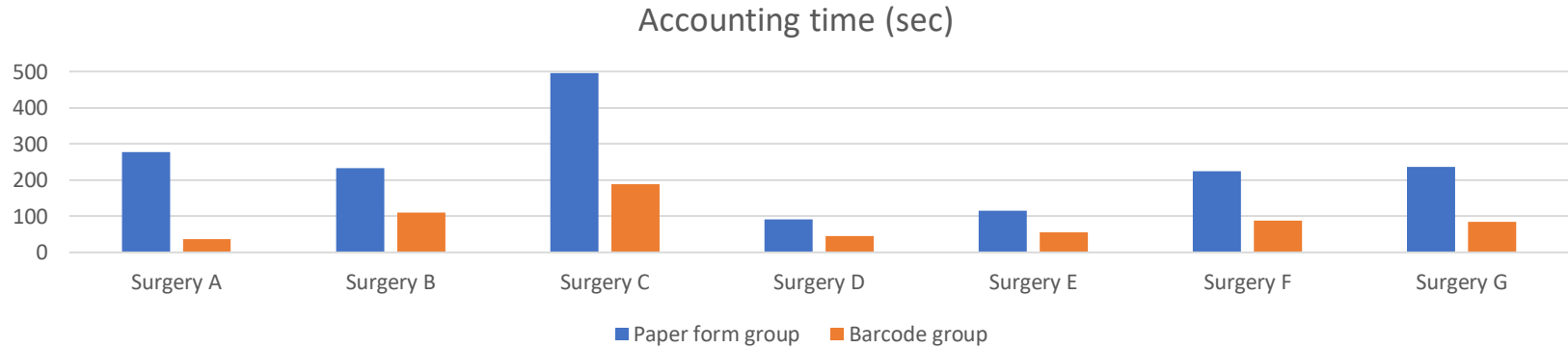
## Study 3 Efficiency : Reduce work time

- **Purpose:** Examine the effect of shortening the time for accounting process
- **Method:**  
Collect the medical materials' information used for surgeries  
Compare the time for accounting process in the following two groups
  - ✓ **Paper form group** : Fill in accounting forms
  - ✓ **Barcode group** : Scan GS1 barcodes on the materials
- **Target:**  
Seven types of surgery consisting of digestive surgery, gynecological surgery, and cardiovascular surgery
  - ※ Includes laparotomy and laparoscopic surgery

# Study 3 Result



- Accounting time of each surgery



- Comparing with the paper form group, the barcode group **saved more than 50% of the accounting time.**
- Time savings tended to **increase as the number of materials increased.**

**Savings in accounting time allow our staff to focus on patient care.**

## Study 4 Data utilisation

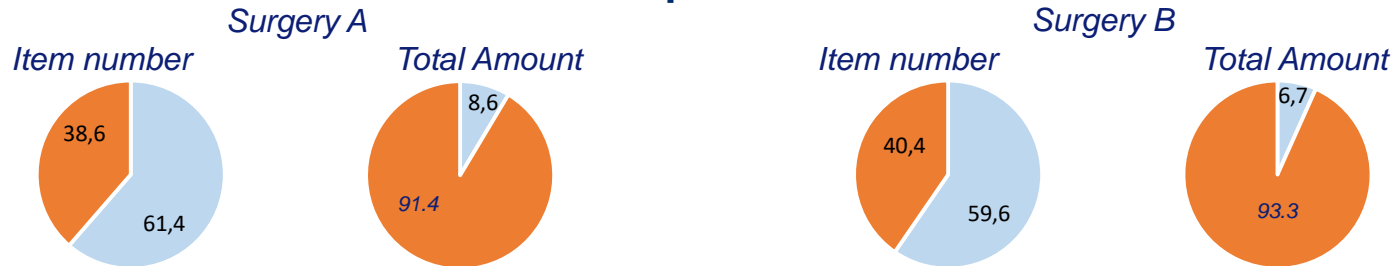


- GS1 barcoding rate is not 100% in Japan, which is taken as the obstacle to use GS1 barcodes in hospitals
- Prevalent views on GS1 barcodes among healthcare staff
  - ✓ If it is not 100%, medical billing cannot be done.
  - ✓ If it is not 100%, medical records cannot be made.
  - ✓ Materials without barcodes may be crucial to the human body.
  - ✓ If it is not 100%, it can not be used for surgery cost analysis.
- We manually calculated the number and costs of all medical materials used for two type surgical **operations (digestive surgery & cardiovascular surgery)** to confirm if those view were true.

# Study 4 Result



- The characteristics of the products without GS1 barcode were as follows:
  - ✓ Most of the materials were **consumables** and not required for accounting or medical records.  
*Injection needle, gloves, cotton for disinfection, etc.*
  - ✓ Most of the products were **low risk products** for temporary use on the body surface.  
*Scalpel blade, Tympanic thermometer, electric scalpel discharge plate, etc.*
  - ✓ The percentage of medical material without GS1 barcodes is about 60% in number, but **less than 10% of the total material price.**



The GS1 barcode is **sufficiently useful**  
for **hospital management** as well as **patient safety.**

# Summary



# GS1 barcodes have the function as an **information hub**



*Recall support  
Expiration date  
confirmation*  
**safety**

**Efficiency**  
*Labour saving  
Data linkage*

**Information  
utilisation**  
*Sales management  
Inventory control*



# Let's start with a **Simple Scan**



**Simple Scan**  
For safer, more effective healthcare

- *Widespread*
- *Inexpensive implementation*
- *Easy to apply*

## **GS1 barcode can be a medical product information hub**







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# Questions

