

Enabling traceability of medical products from production to patient

The GS1 Global Healthcare User Group has approved a Global Traceability Standard for Healthcare which will ensure maximum interoperability between traceability systems across the healthcare supply chain and across borders.

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BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, 13 March 2009 – GS1 Global Office has announced the approval by the GS1 Global Healthcare User Group of the **Global Traceability Standard for Healthcare (GTSH)**.

The GTSH provides a foundational framework which describes the traceability process and defines the minimum requirements for all stakeholders, independent from technologies, organization size or operational sophistication. The GTSH will enable maximum interoperability between traceability systems across the healthcare supply chain and across borders.

Security, traceability and efficiency in healthcare are currently at the forefront of government regulations and industry concerns around the world: some key related issues include counterfeiting, product recalls, adverse event reporting, medication errors, and efficient logistics management. Unfortunately, many proprietary and often irreconcilably incompatible solutions are being (or have already been) proposed to national and international supply chain stakeholders. Global and open standards provide an effective and efficient way to properly meet these diverse demands. As a global open standard, the Global Traceability Standard for Healthcare (GTSH) was defined and adopted to counter such costly and inefficient non-standard solutions.

More than 100 representatives from all stakeholder groups hailing from more than 30 different countries worked on the GTSH since the Traceability in Healthcare Work Team was established in December 2007. The work team was co-chaired by Frédérique Frémont (C.H.I. Robert Ballanger Hospital, France) and Tim Marsh (Pfizer) and facilitated by GS1 Global Office.

Now that they have successfully approved the GTSH via the GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP), the work team is currently developing implementation guidelines to assist users in the implementation of traceability across healthcare supply chains.

The Global Traceability Standard for Healthcare can be downloaded at http://www.gs1.org/docs/gsmpt/traceability/Global_Traceability_Standard_Healthcare.pdf.



NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About GS1 and GS1 Healthcare

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GS1 Healthcare is a global, voluntary healthcare user group developing global standards for the healthcare supply chain and advancing global harmonisation. GS1 Healthcare consists of participants from all stakeholders of the Healthcare supply chain: manufacturers, wholesalers & distributors, as well as hospitals and pharmacy retailers. GS1 Healthcare also maintains close contacts with regulatory agencies and trade organizations worldwide. For more information, visit www.gs1.org/healthcare.