

“The adoption of GS1 standards is viewed as a very important priority to ensure best practices and safety for patients.”

John Swords, Head of Procurement, HSE

Using the GTIN to establish the essential link between healthcare items, pack sizes and product information to enable improved patient safety

The HSE conduct a comprehensive barcode scanning exercise in the National Distribution Centre (NDC) to audit existing product data and map it to the barcode information printed on the product packaging.

Process

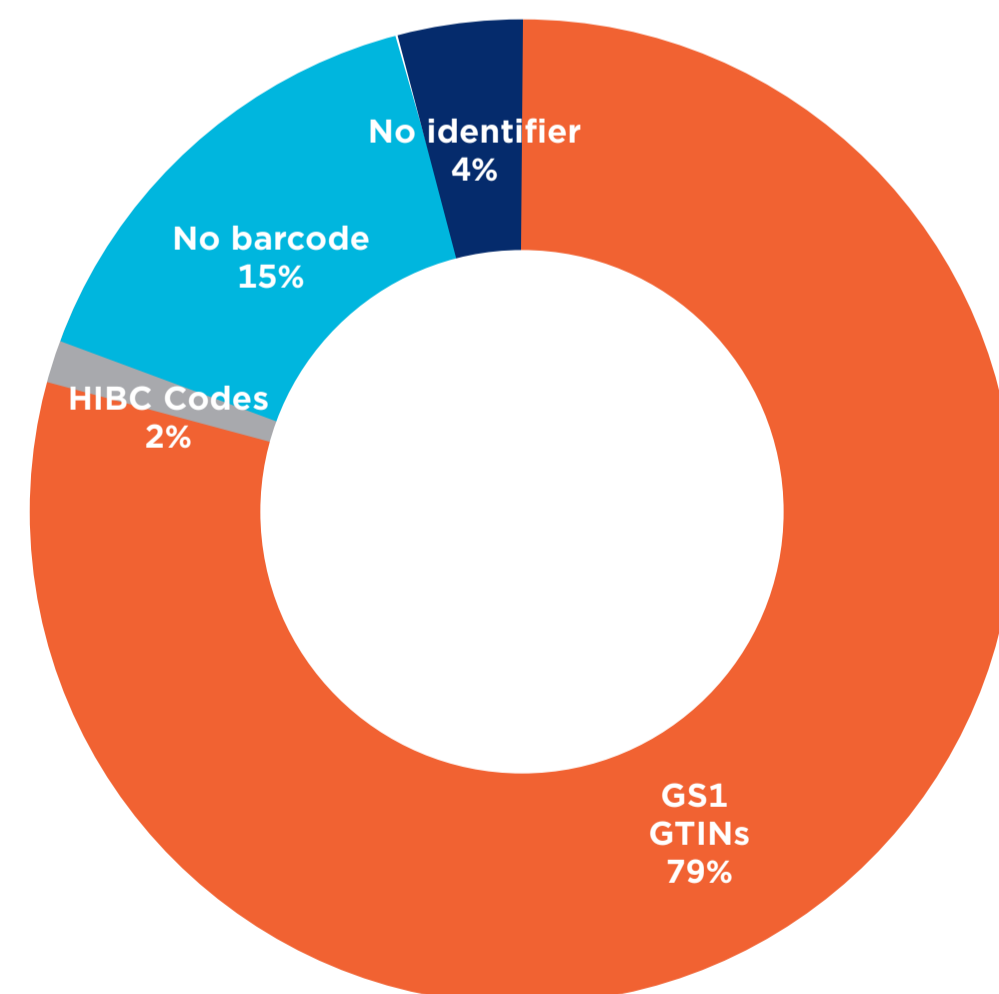
- GS1 Scanning App used to scan all products in the National Distribution Centre
- Scanned GTIN linked to existing product data
- Barcode report generated and used to assist discussions with individual suppliers



Results

- 79% of products in the National Distribution Centre (NDC) have a GS1 GTIN/barcode
- 43% of these barcodes have expiry information within the barcode

NDC Barcode Survey Results
Product identifiers found for medical devices and consumables



Next steps

- Include GTIN in HSE SAP system
- Include request for information on unique identifier in tender documents to suppliers
- Products from other warehouses to be scanned to build a national product file (removes duplication)

Industry standard for uniquely identifying healthcare items at all pack levels		
Individual Package	Multiple Unit Package	Outer Case
GTIN A	GTIN B	GTIN C
5391234560008	5391234560015	5391234560022

GTINS shown for illustration purposes only



Benefits of using Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs)

- Provides a unique product identifier across the HSE
- Enables mapping of data from various systems
- Enables creation of a national product file for the HSE
- Improves accuracy of product data
- Provides a foundation for scanning processes in logistics and at point of care
- Supports patient level costing and aggregated data analysis



Did you know?

Did you know it will soon be a regulatory requirement for all pharmaceuticals and medical devices to have a unique identifier/barcode printed on the packaging?

GTIN with Batch, Expiry and Serial Number encoded in a GS1 2D DataMatrix



GTIN (01) 05391234560008
Expiry (17) 151231
Batch (10) 987654321ABCD
Serial (21) ABCD1234