



The Global Language of Business

GS1 Healthcare Newsletter

2018 in Review and Looking Ahead to 2019

February 2019



In 2018, GS1 Healthcare experienced its highest growth ever with more than 20 new members joining our global initiative. It was a year filled with hard work, collaboration and achievements when helping to drive the implementation of global standards for the healthcare industry.

The year was significant, with many “firsts”. Amongst many achievements, we held the first regional GS1 Healthcare Conference in Africa; completed the first move to leverage GS1 standards to bridge the physical healthcare product with its digital twin; launched the first working group with GS1 Member Organisations to address the role of GS1 standards in health informatics; and formed the first standards development workgroup to explore the role of GS1 standards for clinical trials.

Last year, we looked to the future by developing a GS1 Healthcare five-year strategy to ensure our activities until 2022 deliver the progress needed to realise our vision of a highly efficient and much safer healthcare environment. As part of this work, we refreshed the vision and mission of GS1 Healthcare, ensuring this remains pertinent to our work.

In 2019, we intend to strengthen our support of all healthcare stakeholders, especially healthcare providers where the value of GS1 standards impact patient outcomes and safety. We will work to embrace the digital transformation of healthcare by creating new, innovative approaches to leverage the power of technology with open, global standards.

Like 2018, this year will focus on initiatives where collaborating together will be critical for our mutual success. Whether supply chain professionals, clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, suppliers, solution providers, humanitarian organisations, government or GS1, we all have a responsibility to make 2019 a year of further progress.

I sincerely thank every one of you for your support and partnership to make 2018 such an outstanding success. At the same time, I ask you to join with me to help GS1 Healthcare ensure that 2019 achieves its potential for another year of possibilities and promise to improve patient safety and quality of care.

“Coming together to help
enable interoperability,
optimal quality and efficiency
of healthcare delivery to
benefit all patients”



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ulrike Kreysa".

Ulrike Kreysa
Senior Vice President
GS1 Healthcare

2018 in Review and Looking Ahead to 2019

In 2018, we continued to fulfil many of the initiatives started in past years—delivering training, collaborating with healthcare organisations, engaging solution partners and much more. Yet, 2018 was also a year of creating new approaches and innovative ways to bring GS1 standards to life in healthcare.

As we look ahead to 2019, we are excited to continue our journey with healthcare stakeholders around the world, as we play our part to make healthcare safer and more efficient for everyone.



Prioritising the needs of healthcare providers

The [Digital Thead](#)—an interactive training tool—graphically depicts the collaborative interrelationships and connections between healthcare stakeholders. It shows how their use of GS1 standards help drive the physical flow of products and services as well as the digital exchange of patient and transactional data.

We continued to strengthen the knowledge of GS1 MOs about healthcare provider environments with ongoing **training**. In 2019, an interactive training tool is planned for richer training experiences.

Industry-focused education and tools were also priorities this year. Eight [GS1 Healthcare webinars](#) were conducted that showcased examples of standards implementations by healthcare providers.

Another significant tool included the creation of step-by-step **implementation** plans for GS1 standards in clinical processes. The first in a series of guides addressing “bedside scanning” was completed in 2018, with plans to complete the other two processes—“implants in the operating room” and “patient discharge”—in 2019.

To increase the implementation of **patient and caregiver identification**, we will gather information on current practices and start the development of an implementation

process guide, relevant communication tools and value propositions.

In 2018, we continued to collaborate with clinical stakeholders like the **International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua)**, providing content for its Fellowship Program, presenting at the annual ISQua conference and accepting the opportunity to serve as a reviewer of the ISQua Journal. In 2019, an academic paper about the benefit of barcodes in hospitals is planned for submission to the journal.

Important additional considerations for the implementation of our standards came from the [Clinical Advisory Committee, which consists of leading clinicians](#) that provide a unique perspective to guide our work.

Significant progress was made in 2018 to populate the [healthcare provider database](#) that now holds 110 cases about hospital implementations of GS1 standards worldwide. In 2019, a video guide and webinar are planned. Access to this database will be opened in 2019 to all healthcare stakeholders.

In 2018, GS1 Healthcare collaborated with the International Hospital Federation (IHF) to contribute to a special edition of the IHF Journal containing articles from hospitals around the world where GS1 standards are used to enhance efficiency and patient safety. **Ten articles were published.**

In 2019, we will look at technological advances that may impact GS1's role in the healthcare environment by deploying a formal process for identifying areas or opportunities of impact.

This will include engaging with digital innovators to encourage them to use GS1 standards, as necessary, as well as developing new standards to support implementation activities where necessary.



Developing standards and guidelines

We recognise that [solution providers](#) are critical partners when implementing GS1 standards. As a result, significant resources and efforts in 2018 were centred on connecting and collaborating with solution providers that do use (or do not yet use) GS1 standards in their solutions. In 2019, this increased support and engagement will continue with even more coordinated work to support solution providers at both global and local levels.

The **health informatics education program** for MOs grew in 2018 with a new Health IT MO group and monthly meetings to exchange ideas and help resolve issues. Training sessions (e.g., about Integrating the Healthcare Exchange) were conducted throughout the year and an [education tool about how GS1 standards](#) interact with other health IT standards was launched in November.

Advanced training on the Identification of Medicinal Products (IDMP) is scheduled for 2019. Health informatics educational videos are also planned with the goal to explain

health informatics' topics to advance the knowledge of GS1 MOs and their healthcare stakeholders.

2018 saw more foundational work to help enable **EPCIS-enabled visibility in hospitals**. In 2019, EPCIS projects are planned in multiple hospitals in Belgium and the UK.

GS1 standards can be used for the identification of products, patients and locations in [clinical trial environments](#) for increased efficiency and accuracy. The GS1 Application Standard for Identification of Investigational Products in Clinical Trials was developed in 2018 with a comprehensive launch planned in early 2019. We will also investigate the development of guidelines for the application of additional GS1 standards such as those used in EDI messages.

Planning for the future

Working with healthcare stakeholders, we completed our five-year [GS1 Healthcare strategy](#) that recognises GS1 Healthcare's role to assist in standards implementation, yet aid in new developments that can influence and accelerate these implementations. In 2019, we will focus on the execution of the strategy.

Implementing [GS1 standards in support of global regulatory initiatives](#) continued to be in the forefront in 2018. This included working on requirements for the growing number of [Unique Device Identification \(UDI\)](#) regulations in South Korea, Turkey, Australia, Brazil, Saudi Arabia and China.

In 2019, we will support the implementation of the Basic Unique Device Identifier and the [GS1 Global Model Number \(GMN\)](#) (BUDI-DI) in Europe. In the first half of 2019, the GMN standard will be updated to align with the latest requirements from the EU Commission.

By the end of 2018, all EU Member States (except Italy that has until 2025) had decided to use GS1 standards for the identification of prescribed drugs to implement the [EU Falsified Medicines Directive](#). Many more developments regarding UDI and pharmaceutical traceability are also noted in other countries and are continuously monitored and discussed by the Public Policy work group.

The [Pharmaceutical Serialisation and Traceability Use Case](#) was published in 2018 to help accelerate the sharing of trusted pharmaceutical product master data via the GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network™ (GDSN®). The use case focuses on master data required by serialisation and traceability regulation to establish a basic foundation for data sharing between manufacturers, distributors / wholesalers and hospitals.

Targeted efforts are planned in 2019 to educate about the use of the GDSN to enable accurate, consistent, complete and timely **master data** to be shared between healthcare stakeholders.

In 2019, we will update how we communicate about GS1 standards in healthcare—to focus even more on **how standards drive true value and benefits** for all stakeholders. This includes helping to drive deeper implementations of GS1 identification keys for increased interoperability. We are also reviewing and updating the Healthcare GTIN Allocation Rules so they are aligned, as much as possible, with the GTIN Management standard and refreshed by taking into account relevant developments from past years.

Throughout 2018, we continued to cooperate with international donor organisations, specifically **USAID**, but also others like **Global Fund** and many more. GS1 Healthcare has become an official resource member of **DCVMN (Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturers Network)** and delivered training about GS1 standards in India. In 2019, additional training sessions are to be conducted in China and Brazil.



In May 2018, [Addis Ababa, Ethiopia was the chosen venue for the first-ever African GS1 Healthcare Conference](#). Organised by GS1, hosted by the Ethiopian Food, Medicine and Healthcare Administration and Control Authority (EFMHACA) and supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the African GS1 Healthcare Conference brought together more than 310 participants from 25 African countries and 13 countries from outside of Africa, to discuss how GS1 standards can be used to enable track and trace for access to safe medicines.

In 2019, we will continue to work with humanitarian organisations and support in Africa and traceability. Based in Nigeria, a Healthcare Manager Africa has been hired to support the implementation of GS1 standards across the continent. A GS1 Healthcare Conference will be held in Lagos, Nigeria in September 2019 on invitation of NAFDAC.

During 2018, we also ran information and training sessions about GS1 standards for the **Global Fund, Gavi** and other humanitarian organisations, and will continue to support these partnerships. We participated in a WHO supply chain meeting, which resulted in recommendations for closer cooperation of donor organisations around the implementation of global standards.

In 2019, we will continue to participate in the **World Bank Private Sector Advisory Council**. This group's mission is to build traceability capabilities in developing countries.

Based on 2018's strategy and solution framework, the digital bridge service concept was tested with results published via a proof-of-concept project. Branded "**GS1 Digital Link**", the new standard was developed and completed in August 2018. The development of the "resolver" functional specifications are expected to be complete in June 2019. These standards will enable development of solutions to enable scanning of the GS1 barcode on an item to point to appropriate digital information about that product. Discussions are underway to undertake an eLeaflet demonstration pilot in Belgium and Norway in early 2019.

Connecting with healthcare stakeholders around the globe

In 2018, we continued to host Global GS1 Healthcare Conferences in every part of the world. More than 290 healthcare leaders shared best practices and networked during the conference in Bogotá, Colombia in April. In October, more than 250 attended the conference in Bangkok, Thailand.

In 2019, the global conferences are planned for Noordwijk-Amsterdam, the Netherlands in March and New Delhi, India in November.

In 2018, more than 50 participants regularly attended the Public Policy bi-weekly meetings. In October, the **Regulatory Roadmap: Traceability of Medicinal Products** document was released with very positive feedback, providing detailed information to support regulators before, during and after the drafting of policies in regard to the traceability of pharmaceuticals.

In 2018, GS1 Healthcare presented at more than **42 conferences in 18 countries**, including the International Nursing Conference (Russia), IHF Global Conference (Australia), Packaging Innovation Conference (Germany) and Global Supply Chain Innovation Leaders Summit (Spain). GS1 Healthcare will continue to participate in selected external conferences in 2019.

In 2018, we developed the Public Policy interactive world map that presents an overview of regulatory developments for identification, data capture and information sharing in healthcare. This is a **unique tool** available to GS1 Healthcare.

We continued to liaise with other **standards development organisations** to strengthen awareness of GS1 as the standards for product and location identification data capture, and information sharing in healthcare.

Commenced in 2018, in collaboration with other standards development organisations, a specification for access to digital information access via supply chain barcodes will be finalised in 2019.

In 2019, GS1 will begin the transition to undertake a two-year term as chair of the **Joint Initiative Council**, and in 2020 will formally take this role.

With the growing GS1 Healthcare membership base, we are working to become more efficient and productive to ultimately deliver more value to our members and MOs. In 2018, we implemented a **new framework**, supported by Microsoft Office 365, in order to better share information and collaborate with each other.

Moving forward in 2019, we will continue to leverage technology to better support our global members and MOs while improving our external website for easier access to information by members.

The details about our 2019 strategic priorities are available for download **here**.

Questions or comments

For questions or comments, please contact your GS1 Global Office Relationship Manager.

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