Implementing global standards across the entire healthcare supply chain could save 22,000-43,000 lives and avert 0.7 to 1.4 million patient disabilities, according to the McKinsey report. Called “Strength in unity: The promise of global standards in healthcare”, the report is based on interviews with 80 thought leaders in the healthcare industry.

The report also found that rolling out a single, global standards-based system will:

- Keep **tens of billions of dollars** in counterfeit drugs out of the legitimate supply chain.
- Enable substantial safety benefits that would reduce healthcare costs by **$40-100 billion**.
- **Cost significantly less** than two or more systems.

### 60 global healthcare leaders have already endorsed the GS1 healthcare standards

**Sign now** “to support the adoption of the GS1 system of standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility - from manufacturers to patients.”

Please contact Ulrike Kreysa - ulrike.kreysa@gs1.org
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Countries around the world are facing challenges regarding ensuring patient safety and reducing overall costs, which affect the entire healthcare supply chain, from manufacturers through to wholesalers, distributors, group purchasing organisations and healthcare providers. These challenges are related to counterfeiting, ineffective product recall, medication errors, and complex supply chains. A single, global standard for product identification and data exchange is critical in addressing these issues and ensuring patient safety and lower costs in the healthcare supply chain.

Overall healthcare costs have been rising for many years, and are expected to grow faster than national income in most countries. Stemming this growth has become a major policy priority. Healthcare trading partners are looking for ways to reduce and control costs. One of the most promising opportunities will come through optimising the supply chain by using global standards.

New research by McKinsey & Company, conducted with the participation of more than 80 healthcare industry leaders around the world, has estimated the benefits and value of adopting global standards in the healthcare supply chain – see the white paper at: www.gs1.org/healthcare/mckinsey

“We (the undersigned) support the adoption of the GS1 system of standards for healthcare on a global basis. As GS1 standards for healthcare were developed and became available over the last few years, healthcare communities across the globe have embraced them and advanced their implementation. GS1 standards enable streamlined supply chain processes and improve visibility – from manufacturers to patients.”

GS1 is a not-for-profit, global standards organisation with nearly 40 years’ experience in supply chain optimisation. The GS1 system of standards now spans more than 20 industry sectors, over a million companies in 150 countries and facilitates more than six billion daily transactions. Global adoption of the GS1 system of standards will clearly benefit patients and industry stakeholders worldwide.

Since 2004, the US FDA has required the use of a product identifier and bar code on pharmaceutical products sold in the US; the GS1 system is used by many companies to meet this legal requirement. The global initiative underway to standardise unique medical device identifiers (UDI) will also be able to utilise the GS1 standards. This initiative, involving medical device manufacturers, customers and supply chain partners, as well as governments, primarily aims to enhance patient safety with the added benefit of supporting greater efficiencies in healthcare delivery.

GS1 global standards can become the ONE language of choice for supply chain management and electronic commerce in healthcare and can improve patient safety, patient compliance and will support electronic health records. GS1 global standards ensure compatibility and interoperability of supply chain solutions, not only within an organisation but also within a country, region, and across sectors and borders.

The McKinsey white paper clearly lays out the case for global standards in healthcare. We encourage all industry stakeholders worldwide, including manufacturers, distributors, providers and regulators to adopt the GS1 global system of standards and realise improved patient safety and reduced overall healthcare costs.

The GS1 system of standards provides an effective globally harmonised and integrated framework to manage supply chain information. The undersigned organisations strongly endorse and support GS1 usage and implementation.
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

Mike Duffy
Executive Vice President, Global Manufacturing and Supply Chain
Medical Segment, Cardinal Health

Julie Tam
Vice President, Professional and Scientific Affairs
Canadian Generic Pharmaceutical Association

Ged Holsted
Chief Information Officer
Clifford Hallam Healthcare

Neil Lawrence,
Programme leader AIDC technologies
The Department of Health UK

Francesc Miret
Operations Director
FEDERACIO FARMACEUTICA

Rob Crowe
Vice President, Global Logistics

GSK
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

Xavier Alarcon
Planning and Purchasing Director
LOGARITME LOGISTIC SERVICES AIE

Kent Nicholson,
President & CEO

Dan Sweeney
Novation, Senior Vice President,
Information and Data Services

Pierre Guyot
CEO
Mölnlycke Health Care

Allison Grierson
Director Procurement
Department of Health

Dan Sweeney

James Brown
Director Strategic Procurement
HealthShare

Excellence in the delivery of support services to NSW Health
Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

Mike Alkire  
Chief Operating Officer  
Premier healthcare alliance

Pfizer  
Kevin Neveux  
VP, Global Technology Services

Mike Alkire  
Chief Operating Officer  
Premier healthcare alliance

Premier  
Mike Alkire  
Chief Operating Officer  
Premier healthcare alliance

People caring for people

Brian Johnson  
Chair Rx360 Consortium

Gene Kirtser  
President/CEO

Brian Johnson  
Chair Rx360 Consortium

Gene Kirtser  
President/CEO

ROi  
Gene Kirtser  
President/CEO

Gene Kirtser  
President/CEO

Rob van Exan  
Director, Immunization Policy, Public Affairs

Sanofi Pasteur  
Rob van Exan  
Director, Immunization Policy, Public Affairs

Sanofi Pasteur  
Rob van Exan  
Director, Immunization Policy, Public Affairs

Stevens  
Jeff Stevens - President  
The Stephens Company Limited

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St Vincent's Health Australia  
Craig Doyle  
Group Manager Procurement  
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Global healthcare stakeholders support the adoption of GS1 standards

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