The winner of Provider Implementation Best Case Study Award is ICT Directorate, St. Canice’s Hospital, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, and accepted by Pauline Biggane, ICT Project Manager, RIMD/Endoscope Track and Trace. The primary objective for the project was to help ensure that patient safety measures within Central Decontamination Units in the HSE and HSE funded hospitals were optimised and objectively verifiable through a nationwide interoperable traceability system. Based on a pilot project in St James’s hospital, it was envisaged that some of the benefits highlighted in the pilot would be replicated in the roll out of the system to other hospitals:

1. to reduce manual labour;
2. to increase efficiency;
3. to create assurances that an effective decontamination process has occurred;
4. to guarantee correct and globally unique identification of patient, instrument tray, location etc. within the Sterilisation and theatre cycle.
The winner of the Provider Recognition award is Dr. Heidi Wimmers, Chief Pharmacist, Hospital Aleman, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Dr. Heidi Wimmers made one of the most important traceability implementations in Argentina in the hospital sector. She has been key to the implementation of GS1 standards in her organisation and always supports GS1 Argentina efforts, sharing her experience in drugs traceability with GS1 Standards, in global publications, conferences and congresses.

As part of these dissemination activities of knowledge, she had meetings with several local hospitals, demonstrating the benefits for the patients when the healthcare institutions adopt unit doses identification. As part of this work, Dr. Wimmers is receiving visits from healthcare authorities from other countries to show the significant impacts in the patient security.