



**GS1 Healthcare Conference
Orlando ~ June 2007**

**Global Healthcare User Group GS1 HUG™
Communication Support Team**

Jim Willmott - Smiths Medical

Objectives:

Lead and organise internal and external communications of the HUG to establish the HUG as the leading voice in the area of automatic data identification in the Healthcare Industry.

Scope:

- Identify key areas for which we establish recommendations and end-users to address
- Build Communication and Coordination infrastructure

Deliverables:

- Communication strategy
- Brochures
- Press Releases
- Technical Documentation
- Newsletters
- Structured, Informative and user friendly website

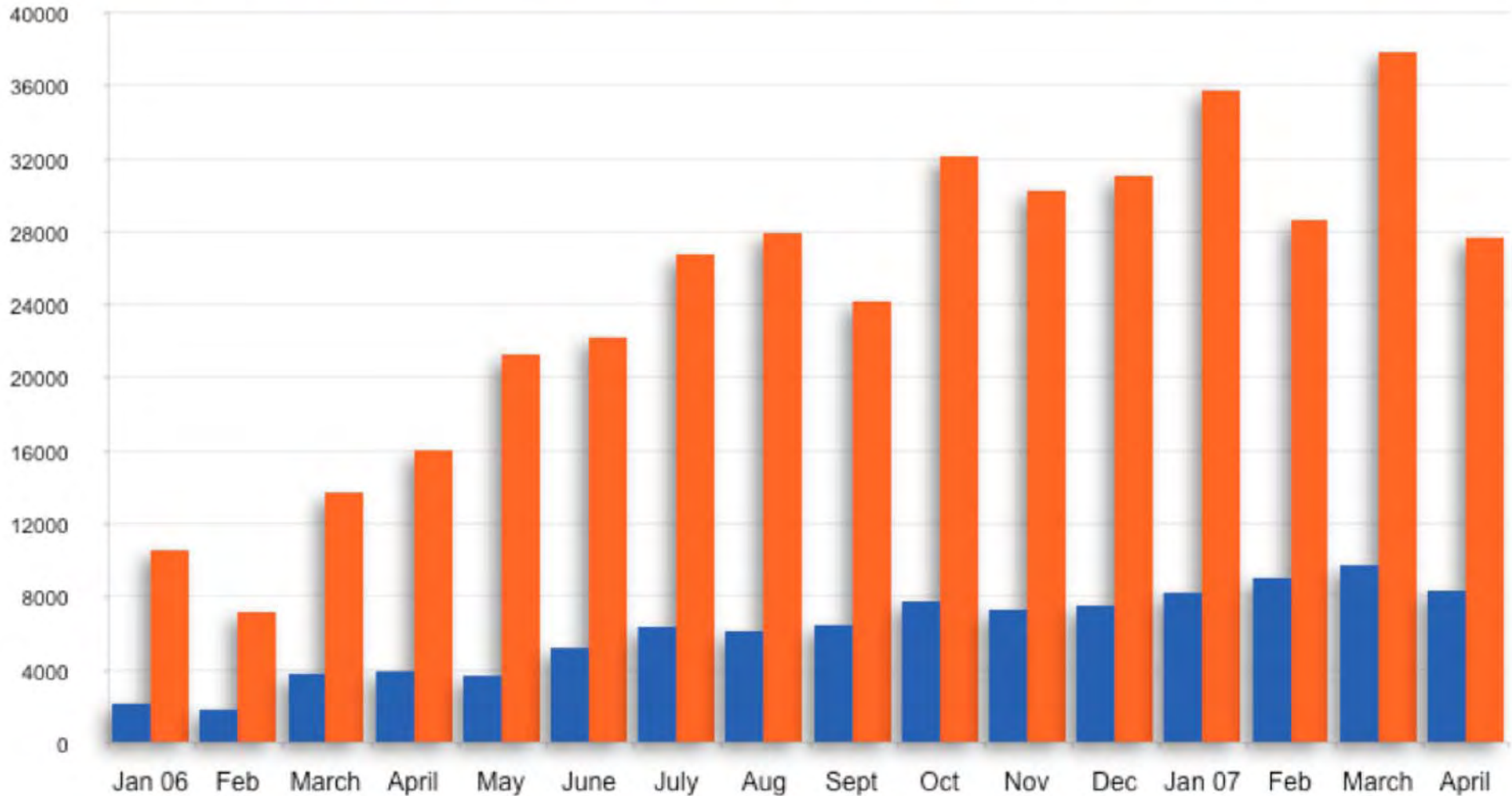
HUG Website:



www.gs1.org/hug/

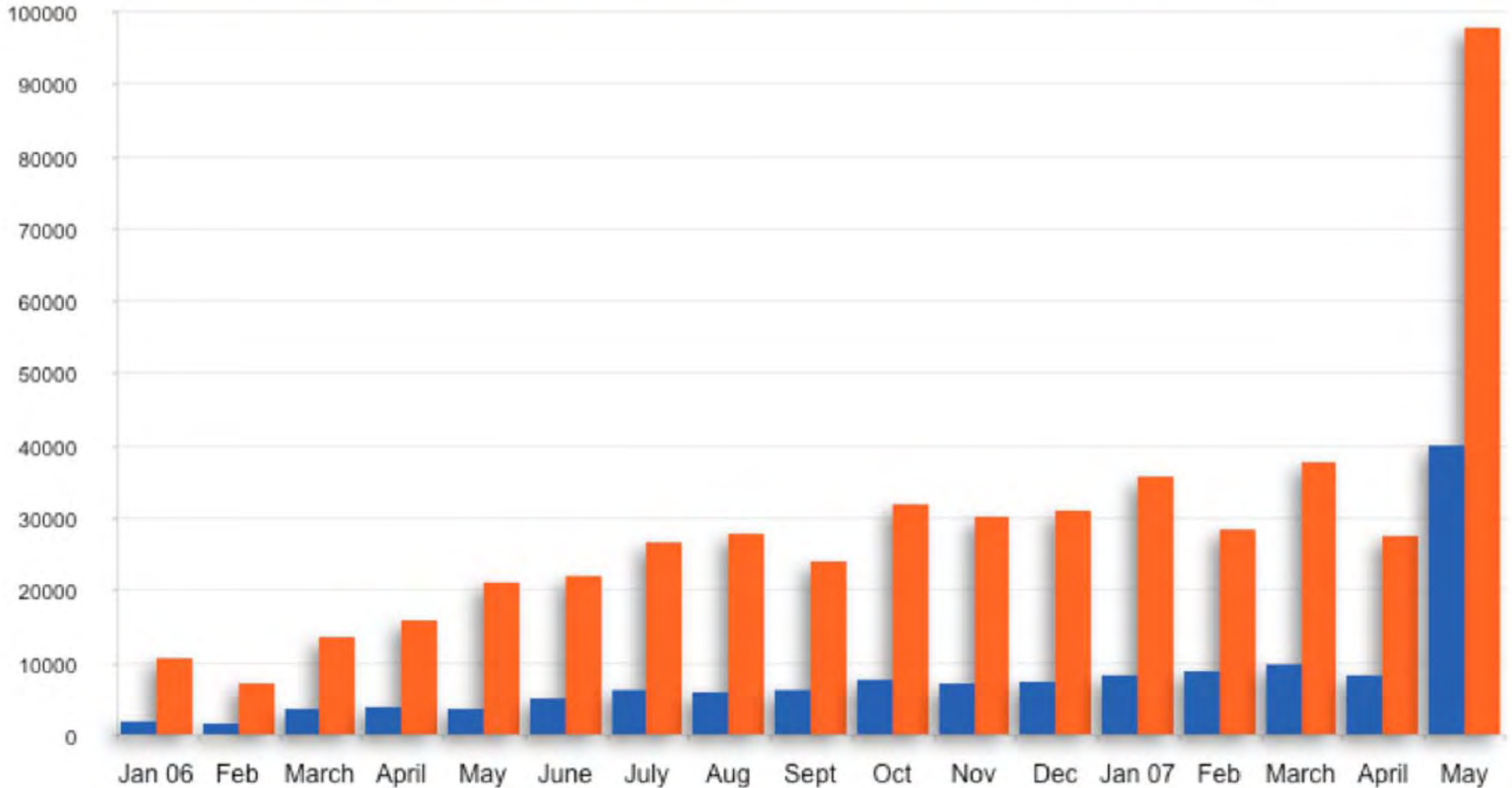
HUG Website - Page Views (HUGs) & Downloads:

■ Downloads ■ Page Views



HUG Website - Page Views (HUGs) & Downloads:

■ Downloads ■ Page Views



HUG Brochure:



HUG Press Releases:

Healthcare Industry Works Together to Improve Patient Safety - July 2005



Monday, 18th July 2005

HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY WORKS TOGETHER TO IMPROVE PATIENT SAFETY

Leading global companies from the pharmaceutical and medical device industry have formed a global GS1 Healthcare User Group (HUG). Its objective is to lead the utilisation and development of global standards for the healthcare industry, with the primary focus on automatic product identification to improve patient safety.



Baxter, Boston Scientific, B.Braun, 3M, GSK, Hospira, Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Merck, NACDS, Pfizer, Smiths Medical and Tyco have participated in the kick-off meeting, which took place on 23 May 2005 in Princeton, New Jersey and have committed to participate actively in the group. It is the first time that the healthcare industry is aligning around a global solution to enhance automatic product identification for the benefit of patients worldwide. The work of the HUG will improve the performance of the healthcare supply chain for drugs and medical devices through the collaborative development and endorsement of recommended voluntary GS1 standards and best practices.

The main focus areas for the group are the following:

- Prevention of Medical errors
- Product Authentication
- Tracking and Tracing
- Increase total Supply Chain efficiency

More follows...

Patient Safety is the Focus of the Healthcare Industry and Regulatory Authorities - November 2005



November 2005

PATIENT SAFETY IS THE FOCUS OF THE HEALTHCARE INDUSTRY AND REGULATORY BODIES

The second meeting of the global GS1 Healthcare User Group (HUG) was held on 13 - 15 September 2005 in Brussels. It focused on gaining an understanding of global regulatory requirements regarding patient safety as well as reporting progress the group has made since the kick-off meeting in May.

Speakers from the European Commission (DG Enterprise and DG Sanco), the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA), the USA Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Italian Ministry of Health, the National Patient Safety Agency of the NHS, United Kingdom and the Regional Healthcare Service Area of Andalucía, Spain presented their work and views about patient safety. The participants and speakers appreciated the opportunity to have an open discussion and to exchange information exchange and agreed to carry the work of the HUG forward by working together more closely.



Delegates from 22 leading global pharmaceutical and medical device companies and 10 GS1 Member Organisations discussed the HUG work plan and listened to the requirements of regulatory bodies. The HUG is concentrating particularly on ensuring that appropriate data structures are selected in order to meet common business needs, and to help ensure data standardisation in healthcare. If standardisation is applied globally, systems to improve patient safety will be developed and implemented quicker than if individual countries were to pursue separate solutions. The three work teams (Standards Development, Standards

© GS1 2005

Global Healthcare User Group Chooses GS1 as Sole System of Standards in Healthcare - August 2006



The global language of business.

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM/LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ, August 2006

Global Healthcare User Group chooses GS1 as sole system of standards in healthcare

The GS1 HUG™ is a voluntary and open group formed by 40 leading pharmaceutical and medical devices companies, wholesalers, hospitals and trade associations from around the world. The HUG's primary objective is to enhance patient safety worldwide through accurate and standardised product identification.

Accurate product identification is crucial to patient safety in three key aspects:

- avoiding medication errors by ensuring that the right drug is delivered to the right patient
- preventing the use of counterfeit drugs and medical devices
- allowing the traceability of medical products

After one year of successful operation of the GS1 HUG™, HUG officially announced on 26 July 2006 that it will use GS1 standards exclusively as the basis for its automatic product identification developments (Barcode and Radio Frequency Identification Product Tag). Over the course of the next 18 months the HUG members will continue to further promote the existing GS1 standards for their application and implementation, in the healthcare sector.

While the primary focus is on developing global standards for automatic product identification, the HUG will also be working on other topics e.g. serialisation, medical catalogues, data synchronisation, classification and e-commerce, to make the healthcare systems safer and more efficient worldwide.



The two co-chairs of the GS1 HUG™ expressed their satisfaction at this achievement. Volker Zeinar, B.Braun, commented, "The organization of the HUG, the engagement of the members and their willingness to share expertise are the

HUG Position Statements:

GS1 HUG advocates global approach for Automatic Identification Standards in Healthcare - April 2007

GS1 HUG recommends investing in Camera-Based bar code scanners to address specific needs for Automatic Identification in Healthcare - June 2007

Supplement: Organisation and Activity Chart May 2007

GS1 HUG Position Statement

GS1 HUG advocates global approach for Automatic Identification Standards in Healthcare

GS1 HUG™ advocates a truly global approach in the development and implementation of global standards for automatic product identification in Healthcare. The GS1 System of Standards is extremely well suited to fit the specific needs of Healthcare. Therefore, GS1 HUG strongly recommends governments worldwide to endorse the use of the GS1 system, and more in particular the usage of GTINs (Global Trade Item Numbers).

Global standards for automatic identification provide the opportunity to make the Healthcare supply chain more efficient and accurate, and thus safer. However, to realise all the benefits, these standards need to be global.

Automatic product identification in Healthcare

GS1 HUG acknowledges that countries have regulated national identification systems for Healthcare items. These are obviously critical for many applications such as registration or reimbursement. Today, these national codes are typically required on packaging in a human readable form, but in some countries they are also required in the bar code. Regulatory requirements for identification vary by market, but global product identification should not vary by market.

The GS1 HUG is aiming to make product identification as ubiquitous as in retail. At consumer goods retailers, more than 5 billion transactions, using GTINs, are carried out each day. This makes it the most widely used system of standards in the world with more than 1.3 million companies having adopted the system worldwide.

At the heart of the GS1 system is the GTIN (Global Trade Item Number). This is an identification number for products and services. These numbers are allocated by the manufacturer, according to the GTIN allocation rules:

- a GS1 company prefix assigned to a company by GS1
- an item reference designated by the company
- a check digit

This GTIN identification number can then be carried on any type of data carrier, a bar code (linear or 2-dimensional) or a radio frequency identification tag, on the specific product or packaging.

A GTIN can serve the needs of every country

GS1 can work with national regulatory bodies to ensure Healthcare items' national identification systems are accounted for in the GS1 Global Data Dictionary as GTIN attributes.

Manufacturers are willing to register GTINs locally, so they can be loaded into national databases and, if still needed, linked to the national identification number.

However, embedding a national product identification number in a GTIN is not an appropriate solution for the Healthcare supply chain. In addition, national requirements to use other prefixes in the GTIN, other than the standard company prefix, will negate the benefits of global standardisation and should be avoided.

Issued by GS1 HUG on 20 April 2007
Page 1 of 3 pages

GS1 HUG Position Statement

GS1 HUG recommends investing in Camera-Based bar code scanners to address specific needs for Automatic Identification in Healthcare

Because of the increased capabilities of camera-based bar code scanners, the GS1 HUG (Global Healthcare User Group) strongly recommends to invest in such scanners when introducing bar code scanners or when replacing existing laser bar code scanners. This will facilitate the future adoption of global standards for automatic identification in the Healthcare supply chain.

Global standards for automatic identification provide the opportunity to make the Healthcare supply chain more efficient and accurate, and thus safer. It will also help enable the patient to receive the five patient rights: the right patient gets the right product at the right time, in the right dose, and using the right route.

GS1 HUG promotes the adoption and implementation of the GS1 System of standards to automatically identify patients, products, caregivers, and locations. It is the most widely used system worldwide, with more than 5 billion transactions per day based on GS1 standards. The system is built on a scheme of identification keys (such as the GTIN, Global Trade Item Number) and attributes (such as the expiry date), which remains the same independent of the data carrier. Identification can be based on GS1 BarCodes (such as the GS1-128 bar code symbology) and on GS1 EPCglobal (using an RFID tag).

Compared to product coding in for example, a grocery retailer environment, pharmaceuticals and medical devices coding has very specific requirements, including:

- a large amount of data (product ID, batch/lot number, expiry date, date of manufacture, serial number, ...) to be stored on a small space
- variable information (such as unique identification number at unit dose level) to be marked at high production rates
- direct marking (e.g. surgical instruments and implants)
- unscannable bar codes do not only impact supply chain efficiency, but more importantly, patient safety

The above requirements may not always be achieved with the 'traditional' linear bar codes, but a solution is available:

GS1 DataMatrix

The two expressions contain identical data

This is a 2-dimensional (2-D) data matrix symbology enabling, in an efficient way, all of the above requirements:

- enables coding more fixed and variable information, while maintaining a small size
- technologies are available for direct part marking
- allows error correction to circumvent some degree of physical damage

To read the GS1 DataMatrix symbology, camera-based bar code scanners are required. Laser bar code scanners cannot read data matrix bar codes. Camera-based bar code scanners can read both linear and 2-D bar codes.

Issued by GS1 HUG on 05 June 2007
Page 1 of 3 pages

GS1 HUG™ Global Healthcare User Group Organisation and Activity Chart - May 2007

HUG Leadership Team

Ulrika Krayer, GS1 Healthcare (Project Management & Coordination)
 Rick Hollander (Co-Chair), Pfizer & Mark Hughs (Co-Chair), Tyco Healthcare
 Frank Brijmogens, Compugen Health - Jackie Ekin, Medtronic - Nicolas Flamin, GS1
 Steve Hoon, Merck - Joe Phelan, Premier - John Thornhill, GS1 - Peter Tomacki, Baxter
 Mark Walchuk, Pfizer - Tom Wernthorn, J&J - Volker Zolner, Libman

HUG Membership Support Team
Volker Zolner, Libman

HUG Communication Support Team
Jim Wilmore, Smiths Medical

HUG Work Teams

- Public Policy**
Jackie Ekin, Medtronic
- Business Case**
Ed Dowell, J&J Pharma
- Auto-ID Data**
Mark Walchuk, Pfizer
Mark Hughs, Tyco Healthcare
- Serialisation**
Steve Hoon, Merck
- Data Carrier**
To be established on completion of Auto-ID & Serialisation work
- Data Synchronisation**
Tom Wernthorn, J&J
Joe Phelan, Premier
- Classification**
Langston Hammet, Abbott
Dave Turner, Novartis

HUG Local Teams

- Australia
- Austria
- Canada
- Chile
- France
- Germany
- Malta
- Serbia & Montenegro
Macedonia
- Switzerland
- United Kingdom

©2007 GS1

Issued by GS1 HUG on 08 May 2007
Page 1 of 1 pages



Local HUGs:



HUG Newsletters:



**The global Healthcare User Group
GS1 HUG™ Newsletter No. 6 - April 2007**

Welcome to the sixth edition of the GS1 HUG Newsletter! This newsletter aims to inform you about our activities and progress in the global Healthcare User Group, GS1 HUG. We look forward to receiving your comments, feedback, and questions, possibly for inclusion in future newsletters. More information can be found on our website: www.gs1.org/hug

The Council of Europe's Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices makes a strong recommendation to use the GS1 System



The Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices was established by the Council of Europe in 2003. Their mission is to "prepare recommendations to specifically prevent adverse events caused by medication errors in European Healthcare".

This Expert Group has now made a strong recommendation to European Healthcare organisations and other related stakeholders "to update the national and European legislative framework to require labelling of every single unit of use of all licensed medicinal products... The data matrix bar code should contain a GS1 GTIN in addition to the expiry date and batch number."

The complete report "Creation of a better medication safety culture in Europe: Building up safe medication practices" is available online at www.coe.int and www.gs1.org/hug

The Department of Health in the UK clearly sees "real improvements to patient safety when using coding systems to match patients to their care"

"The case for coding is compelling, but all stakeholders need to work to commonly agreed standards if the benefits are to be realised fully. The Department of Health is recommending that the GS1 System should be adopted throughout the healthcare system in England, both for manufactured products and for coding systems used within healthcare settings, such as patient identification codes on wristbands." That is why the Department of Health is endorsing the GS1 System:

- requires all NHS organisations to become GS1 members
- engages itself in the activities of the GS1 HUG
- encourages manufacturers to code their products using the GS1 System
- recommends all hospitals to introduce bar coding or RFID using the GS1 System

The complete report "Coding for Success - Simple technology for safer patient care" is available online at www.dh.gov.uk and www.gs1.org/hug

GS1 HUG advocates global approach for Automatic Identification Standards in Healthcare

On the 20th April, GS1 HUG published a Position Statement advocating a global approach in the development and implementation of global standards for automatic product identification in Healthcare. The GS1 System of Standards is extremely well suited to fit the specific needs of Healthcare. Therefore, GS1 HUG strongly recommends governments worldwide to endorse the use of the GS1 system, and more in particular the usage of GTINs (Global Trade Item Numbers). Further details are available on the HUG website at www.gs1.org/hug/about/news.html

Page 1 of 9 pages



**Lettre d'information n° 6 du Groupe International des utilisateurs des produits de santé (GS1 HUG™)
Avril 2007**

Bienvenue dans le sixième numéro de la lettre d'information du GS1 HUG™ ! Cette lettre d'information vise à vous tenir régulièrement au courant de nos activités et des progrès réalisés par le Groupe international pour les produits de santé, GS1 HUG™. Nous attendons avec impatience de recevoir vos observations, commentaires et questions pour les inclure éventuellement dans de prochains numéros de notre lettre d'information. Pour plus d'informations, veuillez consulter notre site Internet : www.gs1.org/hug

Le Groupe d'experts du Conseil de l'Europe sur la sécurité des traitements médicamenteux recommande fortement l'utilisation du système GS1



Le Groupe d'experts sur la sécurité des traitements médicamenteux a été créé par le Conseil de l'Europe en 2003. Sa mission est d'élaborer des recommandations visant en particulier à prévenir les effets indésirables qui tiennent aux erreurs de médication dans les systèmes de soins européens. »

Ce groupe d'experts vient de recommander fortement aux organisations européennes du secteur de la santé et aux autres acteurs concernés de « moderniser le cadre juridique national et européen en rendant obligatoire l'étiquetage de chaque unité d'utilisation de tous les produits médicamenteux brevetés... Le code à barres datamatrix devrait contenir un GTIN de GS1, ainsi que la date d'expiration et le numéro de lot. »

La version intégrale du rapport « Creation of a better medication safety culture in Europe: Building up safe medication practices » (Création d'une meilleure culture de la sécurité médicamenteuse en Europe : développer des traitements médicamenteux fiables) est disponible sur Internet sur www.coe.int et sur www.gs1.org/hug

Le Ministère britannique de la santé constate de « réelles améliorations pour la sécurité du patient lorsque l'on utilise des systèmes de codification qui permettent de s'assurer de la bonne correspondance entre patient et traitement. »

« Les avantages de la codification sont évidents, mais l'ensemble des acteurs doivent s'efforcer d'adopter des normes acceptées par tous pour que ces avantages portent pleinement leurs fruits. Le Ministère de la santé britannique recommande l'adoption du système GS1 aussi bien pour les produits finis que pour les systèmes de codification utilisés dans les établissements de santé, par exemple les codes d'identification des patients sur des bracelets. » Pour toutes ces raisons, le Ministère de la santé soutient le système GS1 :

- il rend obligatoire l'adhésion des organisations du NHS à GS1 ;
- il participe directement aux activités du GS1 HUG ;
- il encourage les fabricants à codifier leurs produits avec le système GS1 ;
- il recommande à tous les hôpitaux d'adopter le marquage en code à barres ou l'identification par radiofréquence (RFID) avec le système GS1.

La version intégrale du rapport « Coding for Success - Simple technology for safer patient care » (La codification, clé du succès - une technologie simple pour une plus grande sécurité du traitement du patient) est disponible en anglais sur www.dh.gov.uk et www.gs1.org/hug

Le GS1 HUG adopte une approche mondiale pour l'élaboration de standards réglementant l'identification automatique dans le secteur de la santé

Le 20 avril dernier, GS1 HUG a publié une déclaration défendant une approche mondiale de l'élaboration et de la mise en œuvre de standards internationaux pour l'identification automatique des produits du secteur de la santé. Le système de standards GS1 est parfaitement adapté aux besoins spécifiques du secteur de la santé. Aussi, GS1 HUG encourage-t-il vivement les gouvernements du monde entier à soutenir l'adoption du système GS1 et, plus particulièrement, l'utilisation des GTIN (numéros d'identification). Plus de détails sur cette déclaration sont disponibles sur le site du HUG à www.gs1.org/hug/about/news.html

Page 1 / 10

HUG Articles:

GS1 standards help improve patient safety

DUE to the healthcare industry's global nature and worldwide threats of medical errors, counterfeiting and diversion, country-by-country work is neither sufficient nor effective. Global standards shared across the healthcare industry are key to identifying and authenticating products.

Around 30,000 people in Europe alone die from medication errors (EU-Stat, EU-15, 2003) per year. GS1 standards in healthcare can help reduce this by identifying each step of the supply chain and reducing human errors. In the UK, the NHS (National Health Service) calculated that approximately 60 patients die each day due to adverse drug errors. NHS has recently instructed hospitals to become GS1 members, and is fully supporting GS1 standards.

The US Food and Drug Administration issued a regulation to include bar codes on drugs, vaccines, and blood products with a timeline of April 2006.

Earlier this month, the healthcare user group GS1 HUG Malta, was inaugurated at the Hilton. GS1 Malta invited interested parties from all the healthcare supply chain and discussed the role of GS1 in healthcare standards.

Representatives of the Ministry of Health, St Luke's Hospital, Mater Dei Hospital, CSSD, the Union of Pharmacists, Actavis Ltd, Pharmadox Ltd, the National Council of Women, FOI, and the Maltese Mentoring Society got together to discuss standards in the healthcare industry in Malta.

GS1 Group Manager Healthcare Ulrike Kreysa outlined GS1 activities in the healthcare industries in different countries. HUGs are being formed in all parts of the world. The GS1 HUG leadership team is made up of Baxter, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, B. Braun, Compario Health and other leading global companies and hospitals.

For more information contact Katya Saliba on 21337-225, e-mail katya.saliba@gs1mt.org or visit www.gs1.org/hug.

28 data capture

A HUG to help you

Rich Hollander, senior director of packaging services, Pfizer Inc., visited Sydney late last year to assist with the start-up of a local HUG (Healthcare User Group) for Australia and New Zealand. He is co-chair of the global GS1 HUG and keen to develop the idea around the world. Rich Hollander spoke to MHD editor Charles Pauka whilst in Sydney.

According to Rich Hollander, Pfizer became involved in the GS1 HUG because it made sound business sense. "I am involved in the HUG, because we must establish global standards if the pharmaceutical and medical device supply chain is going to be effective in addressing patient safety concerns. While many global standards exist for automatic identification and electronic commerce, the healthcare industry needs differ from other industries from which these standards had been developed. In some instances new standards need to be developed or revised, and for some business requirements, we need to define which specific standards should be utilised. With these standards in place, we should all be able to achieve our objectives quicker and with a lower overall cost burden," he said.

"When it comes to the cost burden, while as an industry we always try to minimise costs, we also need to be aware of what it will cost the industry if we don't take action. Both the global and local HUGs work hard to ensure standards around technology are developed based on clearly defined business and user requirements, and not based solely on what hardware or software suppliers believe the solutions to be."

Driven jointly by GS1 Australia and GS1 New Zealand, HUG Australasia will work together with the global HUG which includes representatives from JM, B. Braun, Baxter, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, and Wyeth among others. The global HUG mission is to lead the healthcare industry to the effective utilisation and development of the GS1 System to improve patient safety. The initial primary focus for the group is automatic identification using GS1 standards for numbering structures and data carriers (e.g. bar codes and radio frequency identification).



28 MHD Supply Chain Solutions - March / April 2007

28 data capture



28 data capture

The pharmaceutical industry has been largely successful in its efforts to ensure that the products it manufactures are safe and effective. However, the industry has not been as successful in ensuring that the products it manufactures are authentic. Counterfeit drugs are a major problem for the industry, and they can be very dangerous to patients. The industry has been working to develop standards to help prevent this, and the GS1 HUG is a key part of this effort.

Rich Hollander, senior director of packaging services at Pfizer Inc., visited Sydney late last year to assist with the start-up of a local HUG (Healthcare User Group) for Australia and New Zealand. He is co-chair of the global GS1 HUG and keen to develop the idea around the world. Rich Hollander spoke to MHD editor Charles Pauka whilst in Sydney.

According to Rich Hollander, Pfizer became involved in the GS1 HUG because it made sound business sense. "I am involved in the HUG, because we must establish global standards if the pharmaceutical and medical device supply chain is going to be effective in addressing patient safety concerns. While many global standards exist for automatic identification and electronic commerce, the healthcare industry needs differ from other industries from which these standards had been developed. In some instances new standards need to be developed or revised, and for some business requirements, we need to define which specific standards should be utilised. With these standards in place, we should all be able to achieve our objectives quicker and with a lower overall cost burden," he said.

"When it comes to the cost burden, while as an industry we always try to minimise costs, we also need to be aware of what it will cost the industry if we don't take action. Both the global and local HUGs work hard to ensure standards around technology are developed based on clearly defined business and user requirements, and not based solely on what hardware or software suppliers believe the solutions to be."

Driven jointly by GS1 Australia and GS1 New Zealand, HUG Australasia will work together with the global HUG which includes representatives from JM, B. Braun, Baxter, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, and Wyeth among others. The global HUG mission is to lead the healthcare industry to the effective utilisation and development of the GS1 System to improve patient safety. The initial primary focus for the group is automatic identification using GS1 standards for numbering structures and data carriers (e.g. bar codes and radio frequency identification).

28 MHD Supply Chain Solutions - March / April 2007

28 data capture



28 data capture

The pharmaceutical industry has been largely successful in its efforts to ensure that the products it manufactures are safe and effective. However, the industry has not been as successful in ensuring that the products it manufactures are authentic. Counterfeit drugs are a major problem for the industry, and they can be very dangerous to patients. The industry has been working to develop standards to help prevent this, and the GS1 HUG is a key part of this effort.

Rich Hollander, senior director of packaging services at Pfizer Inc., visited Sydney late last year to assist with the start-up of a local HUG (Healthcare User Group) for Australia and New Zealand. He is co-chair of the global GS1 HUG and keen to develop the idea around the world. Rich Hollander spoke to MHD editor Charles Pauka whilst in Sydney.

According to Rich Hollander, Pfizer became involved in the GS1 HUG because it made sound business sense. "I am involved in the HUG, because we must establish global standards if the pharmaceutical and medical device supply chain is going to be effective in addressing patient safety concerns. While many global standards exist for automatic identification and electronic commerce, the healthcare industry needs differ from other industries from which these standards had been developed. In some instances new standards need to be developed or revised, and for some business requirements, we need to define which specific standards should be utilised. With these standards in place, we should all be able to achieve our objectives quicker and with a lower overall cost burden," he said.

"When it comes to the cost burden, while as an industry we always try to minimise costs, we also need to be aware of what it will cost the industry if we don't take action. Both the global and local HUGs work hard to ensure standards around technology are developed based on clearly defined business and user requirements, and not based solely on what hardware or software suppliers believe the solutions to be."

Driven jointly by GS1 Australia and GS1 New Zealand, HUG Australasia will work together with the global HUG which includes representatives from JM, B. Braun, Baxter, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, and Wyeth among others. The global HUG mission is to lead the healthcare industry to the effective utilisation and development of the GS1 System to improve patient safety. The initial primary focus for the group is automatic identification using GS1 standards for numbering structures and data carriers (e.g. bar codes and radio frequency identification).

28 MHD Supply Chain Solutions - March / April 2007

28 data capture



28 data capture

The pharmaceutical industry has been largely successful in its efforts to ensure that the products it manufactures are safe and effective. However, the industry has not been as successful in ensuring that the products it manufactures are authentic. Counterfeit drugs are a major problem for the industry, and they can be very dangerous to patients. The industry has been working to develop standards to help prevent this, and the GS1 HUG is a key part of this effort.

Rich Hollander, senior director of packaging services at Pfizer Inc., visited Sydney late last year to assist with the start-up of a local HUG (Healthcare User Group) for Australia and New Zealand. He is co-chair of the global GS1 HUG and keen to develop the idea around the world. Rich Hollander spoke to MHD editor Charles Pauka whilst in Sydney.

According to Rich Hollander, Pfizer became involved in the GS1 HUG because it made sound business sense. "I am involved in the HUG, because we must establish global standards if the pharmaceutical and medical device supply chain is going to be effective in addressing patient safety concerns. While many global standards exist for automatic identification and electronic commerce, the healthcare industry needs differ from other industries from which these standards had been developed. In some instances new standards need to be developed or revised, and for some business requirements, we need to define which specific standards should be utilised. With these standards in place, we should all be able to achieve our objectives quicker and with a lower overall cost burden," he said.

"When it comes to the cost burden, while as an industry we always try to minimise costs, we also need to be aware of what it will cost the industry if we don't take action. Both the global and local HUGs work hard to ensure standards around technology are developed based on clearly defined business and user requirements, and not based solely on what hardware or software suppliers believe the solutions to be."

Driven jointly by GS1 Australia and GS1 New Zealand, HUG Australasia will work together with the global HUG which includes representatives from JM, B. Braun, Baxter, GSK, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble, and Wyeth among others. The global HUG mission is to lead the healthcare industry to the effective utilisation and development of the GS1 System to improve patient safety. The initial primary focus for the group is automatic identification using GS1 standards for numbering structures and data carriers (e.g. bar codes and radio frequency identification).

28 MHD Supply Chain Solutions - March / April 2007

HUG Articles - Previous Publications:

Benefits of barcoding in the pharmaceutical industry

The use of barcodes on drugs and medical devices will be an important step to improve patient safety and will allow the tracking of medicinal products before, during and after a medical procedure.

WHAT WE NEED IS...

A global auto ID standard can help solve counterfeit issues

"They're all trying to solve the same business issues with different approaches. Though that's a problem, it's not efficient."

BAR CODING OF MEDICAL DEVICES

By Ulrike Kreyss

The pharmaceutical industry is now being forced to take steps to ensure that its products are not only safe and effective, but also that they are not counterfeit. The industry is being pushed to take steps to ensure that its products are not only safe and effective, but also that they are not counterfeit.

Australian Healthcare Innovation Group Launched

Join Healthcare group to drive supply chain reform

A group of Australian healthcare and pharmaceutical industry leaders have joined forces to form the Australian Healthcare Innovation Group (AHIG).

LANDÄRZTE Wie Telemedizin hilft, Versorgungslücken zu schließen

GESUNDHEITSKARTE Bewährt sie sich im ersten Härtetest?

KLINIK-UMFRAGE Anspruch und Wirklichkeit von IT-Unterstützung bei der Integrierten Versorgung

Mehr Sicherheit für Patienten

Die Hersteller von Drogen und anderen Arzneimitteln werden gezwungen, die Sicherheit ihrer Produkte zu gewährleisten. Die Hersteller von Drogen und anderen Arzneimitteln werden gezwungen, die Sicherheit ihrer Produkte zu gewährleisten.

A health check for Indian hospitals

GUEST COLUMN

Dr. [Name] discusses the challenges of healthcare in India and the need for better infrastructure and training.

Richtiger Patient, richtiges Produkt, richtige Dosierung

Business by CSI (Healthcare Data Group)

Dr. [Name] discusses the importance of patient safety and accurate medication dosing.

MEDICAL Lnk Packaging

Pharmaceutical & Medical Packaging News

Pharmaceutical & Medical Packaging News is a comprehensive source for the industry, covering news, analysis, and product information.

MEDICAL Lnk UDI's: Where's the Risk?

UDI's: Where's the Risk? discusses the challenges of Unique Device Identification (UDI) implementation.

Medical Packaging Roundtable: Unique Identifiers for Medical Devices

Should the codes on other types of health-care identifying medical devices be changed?

Medical Packaging Roundtable: Unique Identifiers for Medical Devices

Should the codes on other types of health-care identifying medical devices be changed?

Medical Packaging Roundtable: Unique Identifiers for Medical Devices

Should the codes on other types of health-care identifying medical devices be changed?

Pharmaceutical Packaging Roundtable: Striving Toward a Global Code

To stop counterfeiting and to unify medical areas around the world

Pharmaceutical Packaging Roundtable: Striving Toward a Global Code

To stop counterfeiting and to unify medical areas around the world

Pharmaceutical Packaging Roundtable: Striving Toward a Global Code

To stop counterfeiting and to unify medical areas around the world

Other Publications:

DH Department of Health

Coding for Success

Simple technology for safer patient care

Summary

This document describes bar-coding and similar coding technologies, and the impact they could have on healthcare. There is evidence of real improvements to patient safety when coding systems are used to match patients to their care – fewer medication errors, a reduced risk of wrong-site surgery, a more accurate track and trace of surgical instruments, equipment and other devices, and much better record keeping. Using coding to manage supplies and purchasing electronically can cut costs dramatically as well as improving efficiency.

The medicines and medical devices industries have already made significant progress on coding products to voluntary standards. Benefits for industry include effective track and trace, and supply chain efficiencies coding is also a weapon in the fight against counterfeit products.

The case for coding is compelling, but all stakeholders need to work to commonly agreed standards if the benefits are to be realised fully. The Department of Health is recommending that the GS1 System should be adopted throughout the healthcare system in England, both for manufactured products and for coding systems used within healthcare settings, such as patient identification codes on wristbands.

This policy position is backed by an action plan to support both the NHS and the medicines and devices industries in realising the benefits for patients. It will include:

- membership of GS1 for all NHS organisations, with demonstrator projects and further support to help organisations implement the technology locally;
- further encouragement to the medicines and devices industries to code products supplied to the NHS using the GS1 System; and
- engagement in the GS1 Healthcare User Group, which is reviewing the GS1 System to ensure it meets the needs of healthcare providers and manufacturers worldwide.

At this stage, the Department of Health believes that coding standards should be developed and applied on a voluntary rather than a mandatory basis. The GS1 organisation develops coding standards in consultation with its members. The NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency will work with industry to apply these standards to healthcare products. The Department of Health and its agencies, including Connecting for Health, the National Patient Safety Agency and the Information Standards Board, will provide guidance and support to the NHS to help it implement coding schemes locally. This is not just about

2

“The Department of Health is recommending that the GS1 System should be adopted throughout the healthcare system in England [...] and presents an action plan calling for engagement in GS1 Healthcare User Group.”

February 2007 - Policy Guidance Document - UK Department of Health

CONVERGENCE March 16 2007 EUROPE

UK pushes GS1 autoidentification coding in device tracking drive

The UK's medical technology and other healthcare industries are being urged to adopt the GS1 autoidentification and data capturing (AIDC) system for device and equipment tracking, under a government initiative to extend use of the technology.

In guidance issued as part of supporting the adoption of bar-coding, radio-frequency identification (RFID) and other machine-readable code systems, the UK's Department of Health says that the development of standards "should be done on a voluntary basis."

Although there has been "significant progress" already, it is emphasising the need for manufacturers to act on recommendations (issued in 2001) by the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency (NPSA) that all suppliers to the NHS in England have a global trade item number (GTIN).

Electronic coding can "dramatically reduce the costs of the purchasing process"

"This purchase needs to be based on technology suppliers who can develop the AIDC systems to support healthcare applications," says the 2001 in the guidance document "Coding for Success: Simple technology for safer patient care."

Underlining its intention that coding standards be developed and applied on a voluntary rather than a mandatory basis, it adds that "NPSA will work with industry to apply these"

Safety, diagnostics under spotlight

The text reports "real improvements" in patient safety, notably by reducing medication errors and risks of wrong site surgery, while also significantly improving the tracking and tracing of surgical instruments, equipment and other devices.

It cites evidence of a reduction of almost 20% in the rate of patient identification error compared with paper-based systems. In 10 UK hospital episodes most in some form of error, of which half are preventable, says one NHS Foundation Trust. 500,000 safety incidents cost the NHS some £2bn 500,000 annually.

"Many processes within diagnostics have already been automated, with AIDC being an essential tool for the smooth running of pathology and other services, but areas in matching a sample to the right patient are still manual," the DH acknowledges, citing an error rate of 1 in 1,000. Transition to AIDC is expected by one major British manufacturer as a result of addressing this problem, it adds.

Of the potential efficiencies in medical stock tracking and ordering, the report cites the effect of AIDC systems adopted at the Leeds Hospitals trust, cardiac catheterisation labs, where stock values across almost 1,000 products have were reduced from £1.6m to £700,000. It also believes that electronic coding can "dramatically reduce the costs of the purchasing process" – in the case of the Leeds lab, they are said to have fallen from up to £27,000 per line, to £5,000.

GS1 UK will have a kick-off meeting of the HUG on the 19 June 2007 to support this initiative

Other Publications:

*Creation of a better medication safety culture in Europe:
building up safe medication practices*

Executive summary

The Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Pharmaceutical Questions established the Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices in 2003 to review medication safety and to prepare recommendations to specifically prevent adverse events caused by medication errors in European health care.

This work is complementary to the work of the Council of Europe Committee of Experts on Management of Safety and Quality in Health Care (SP-SQS) that prepared recommendations on management of patient safety and prevention of adverse events in health care. The recommendations were adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 24 May 2006 (Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2006)7).

As medication errors are the most common single preventable cause of adverse events, a specific strategy to promote medication safety was established as a part of the Council of Europe Recommendation Rec(2006)7, see Appendix E: "Medication safety – A specific strategy to promote patient safety" of Recommendation Rec(2006)7 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on management of patient safety and prevention of adverse events in health care in Appendix I.

Aim of the report

This report essentially deals with medication errors and their prevention. It presents the work carried out by the Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices and represents the first international report on this topic with a special focus on Europe.

Although the development of this document meets the challenge of the great variation in the different European countries regarding medication regulations, clinical practices, procedures for the use of medication and organisational cultures, as well as the lack of information on medication errors occurring in member states of the Partial Agreement, the Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices proposes a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach to enhance medication safety in Europe. The members of the expert group are health professionals committed to medication safety by their academic qualification and/or day-to-day practice in the medication use system. No conflict of interest with public health has been disclosed during the preparation of this report.

According to the vision statement agreed in November 2003 (see Appendix 2 of the report), the Council of Europe's Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices carried out its work according to the following essential objectives:

- to enhance awareness of medication errors across the European countries and recognition as an important system-based public health issue;
- to provide guidance for reducing medication errors and preventable adverse drug events in all the processes of the medication use system, both in hospital and ambulatory care settings, based on reporting, analysing and active learning from the medication errors and on evidence-based strategies already recommended;
- to help European Health Authorities, governments and regulatory agencies, pharmaceutical companies, organisations and professional societies, health professionals and patients selecting top safety practices for implementation both at

“European Healthcare organisations and other related stakeholders should require labelling of every single unit of use of all licensed medicinal products. The data matrix bar code should contain a GS1 GTIN in addition to the expiry date and batch number.”

April 2007 “Creation of a better medication safety culture in Europe” Report, Council of Europe’s Expert Group on Safe Medication Practices

HUG Technical Material:

Description of the Major Supply Chain Processes

Each of these processes might be performed by different organisations or by a single entity

Industry →→→

Logistics provider →→→

Healthcare facility →→→



From Start of Manufacture to End of Treatment

Other Publications:



Other Publications:



To be continued ...



Any questions for 'anyone' in the Communication Support Team?

Please remember to visit:
www.gs1.org/hug/

Contact details:

Jim Willmott

Smiths Medical

Group Labelling Manager

T +44 (0)1303 236874

M +44 (0)7766441573

E Jim.Willmott@Smiths-Medical.com