



## Press Release

### HL7 Supports GS1 as World's Best Supply Chain Healthcare Standard

**Brussels, Belgium and Ann Arbor, MI, USA, October 14, 2013** – Health Level Seven International® (HL7®) has re-iterated its support of GS1 by joining more than 50 leading healthcare stakeholders from around the world in signing an endorsement paper that supports the adoption of the GS1 System of Standards for Healthcare as the global standard best suited for the healthcare supply chain.

The healthcare leaders signed the paper supporting GS1 after McKinsey & Company published a report stating that "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." The report also said that 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 cut healthcare costs by \$40-100 billion, and cost significantly less than two or more systems.

GS1 and HL7 took another major step to improve global healthcare at GS1's semi-annual Healthcare Conference October 1-3 in San Francisco, CA. The two organizations renewed their Statement of Understanding (SOU) to work together to reduce medical errors and to increase the effectiveness of the healthcare supply chain by having GS1 President and CEO Miguel Lopera, and HL7 CEO Dr. Charles Jaffe sign an extension of the agreement to join forces to achieve these goals.

This event marks an important milestone in global healthcare cooperation between the world's two leading global standards organizations. GS1, a neutral, not-for-profit, global organization based in Brussels, develops and maintains the most widely-used supply chain standards system in the world. HL7, a non-profit global organization based in Ann Arbor, Michigan, develops international healthcare informatics interoperability standards and is regarded as the world's most important player in the interoperability of healthcare. GS1 has member organizations in more than 110 countries, and HL7 standards are used in 55 countries.

"GS1 is pleased to continue joining forces with HL7 to combine the development and adoption of GS1's global supply chain standards with HL7's standards for the interoperability of health information technology first and foremost to improve patient safety around the world," said Lopera. "The integration of GS1 supply chain standards and HL7 standards used in healthcare data exchange, storage, and retrieval have been and will continue to be critical in lowering healthcare costs from manufacturers to patients as well as improving patient safety," said Jaffe.

Another top item on the agenda at the Global GS1 healthcare conference in San Francisco was how to implement the new U.S. Federal Drug Administration Unique Device Identification (UDI) rule. UDI is a system used to mark and identify medical devices within the healthcare supply chain, which will provide data and important product information into a database held by the FDA. The FDA UDI rule, which became effective in September, requires manufacturers to include both a plain-text version of identifying data and an encoded version that uses Automatic Identification Data Capture (AIDC) technology such as linear/two-dimensional bar codes and RFID tags.

The GS1 System of Standards enables all stakeholders to efficiently and effectively meet UDI requirements by ensuring interoperability and compatibility within an organization, between organizations and across borders. A single standard ultimately accelerates implementation and increases compliance to the UDI regulations. GS1's more-than 110 member organizations and 2,000-plus employees worldwide provide support to users on how to implement UDI in their local language and to understand their local requirements.



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**About GS1 Healthcare**

GS1 Healthcare is a global user community consisting of all Healthcare supply chain stakeholders, including manufacturers, distributors, Healthcare providers, industry associations and regulatory authorities. The mission of GS1 Healthcare is to lead the Healthcare sector to the successful development and implementation of global standards by bringing together experts in Healthcare to enhance patient safety and supply chain efficiencies. The vision of GS1 Healthcare is to be the recognized, open and neutral source for regulatory agencies, trade organisations and other similar stakeholders who are seeking input and direction for global standards in Healthcare for patient safety, supply chain security & efficiency, traceability and accurate data synchronisation. For more information about the GS1 global Healthcare user group, visit: [www.gs1.org/healthcare](http://www.gs1.org/healthcare)

**About Health Level Seven International (HL7)**

Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7's more than 2,300 members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

HL7's endeavors are sponsored, in part, by the support of its benefactors: Accenture; Allscripts; Booz Allen Hamilton; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Duke Translational Medicine Institute; Epic; the Food and Drug Administration; GE Healthcare Information Technologies; GlaxoSmithKline; IBM; Intel Corporation; InterSystems Corporation; Kaiser Permanente; McKesson Provider Technology; Microsoft Corporation; NICTIZ National Healthcare; Oracle Corporation; Partners HealthCare System, Inc.; Philips Healthcare; Quest Diagnostics Inc.; Siemens Healthcare; the U.S. Department of Defense, Military Health System; and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Numerous HL7 Affiliates have been established around the globe including Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom, and Uruguay.

For more information, please visit: [www.HL7.org](http://www.HL7.org).