

# Using GS1 Healthcare Standards

## GS1

GS1 is an international, not-for-profit association that creates and implements standards to bring efficiency and visibility to supply chains across multiple industries. The GS1 standards for healthcare focus on improving patient safety and supply chain efficiency. They do this by providing unique product identification (GTINs), clean data (GDSN), and location information (GLNs).



### GTINs (Global Trade Item Numbers)

GTINs are globally unique product identification numbers. GTINs are usually accompanied by a barcode on product packaging. They identify the manufacturer, product and packaging unit of measure. Cook Medical uses 14-digit GTINs.



### GDSN (Global Data Synchronization Network)

The GDSN is a subscription-based, warehouse of certified data that enable all members of the healthcare supply chain to share common, accurate GTIN and GLN information.



### GLNs (Global Location Numbers)

GLNs are 13-digit, globally unique numbers that identify physical locations and legal entities such as IDNs.

## Why to Use Global Trade Item Numbers

GTINs enable trading partners to use a common language to communicate and identify products throughout the supply chain. Without a common language, trading partners use different systems for product identification. Managing products this way is inefficient, error-prone, and costly for everyone. When we use GTINs, patient safety and supply chain efficiency improve.

### Improved Supply Chain Efficiency

- Products can be tracked through the entire supply chain.
- Having greater visibility of products in the supply chain improves inventory management.
- Having accurate data improves ordering and invoicing accuracy.
- There's no need to relabel products and maintain an item cross-reference database.
- The cost of care can be captured and tracked.

### Improved Patient Safety

- Medication errors are reduced.
- The product recall process becomes faster and more accurate.
- Patients are protected against counterfeit products.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: Why did Cook Medical implement the GS1 standards?

**A:** Cook Medical believes that standards make sense for the healthcare industry and our business because these standards improve the healthcare supply chain. Our internal manufacturing and distribution supply chain benefit from GS1 standards the same way our customers do.

### Q: Do I have to use GTINs to order products from Cook Medical?

**A:** No. Cook Medical products can be ordered either by using GTINs or our proprietary Global Product Numbers (GPNs) or Reference Part Numbers (RPNs).

### Q: Do all Cook Medical products have GTINs?

**A:** Yes, all Cook Medical products have unique GTINs.

### Q: How do GS1 standards relate to the new FDA Unique Device Identification (UDI) standards?

**A:** GS1 standards play an important part in supporting the upcoming UDI requirements.

### Q: Where are GTINs used?

**A:** GTINs are marked on our product packaging labels, invoices and pack slips.

For more information visit [www.cookmedical.com/gtin.do](http://www.cookmedical.com/gtin.do).

### How do I start using GTINs and GLNs with Cook?

You can get started by contacting your Cook Medical corporate account executive, corporate account manager or our customer service team.

#### Customer Service:

 800.457.4500

 orders@  
cookmedical.com