The Global Language of Business

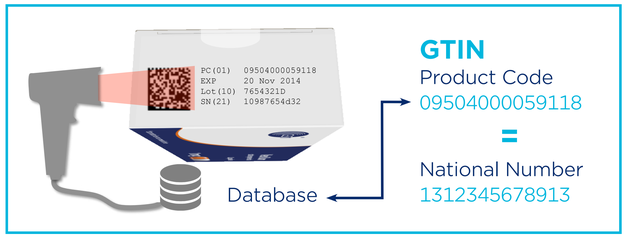
Optimise the healthcare supply chain with a GTIN

Using a GTIN is the most efficient and effective way for all stakeholders to identify pharmaceutical products (Option 1).

Challenge

Some countries have legacy national numbers in use today to facilitate the licence and reimbursement processes.
In those countries where legacy national numbers are in use today, the GS1 standards provide the following approaches to transition from national numbering to a globally harmonised numbering scheme:

Solution



Option 2

If a national number needs to be available at the point of dispensing, it can be an attribute to the GTIN within an associated database record. This option avoids adding data overhead to the label and the GS1 DataMatrix and although adding complexity still enables multi-market packaging.

Option 3

Alternatively the national number can be associated with the GTIN within the GS1 DataMatrix by use of a GS1 Application Identifier (AI) specific to the national number i.e. the NHRN. This does add complexity and data content to the GS1 DataMatrix but will still enable multi-market packaging in markets where this approach is accepted. It is even possible to encode more than one NHRN into the data carrier.

Key terms

GTIN: The GS1 Identification Key used to identify trade items. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, an Item Reference and Check Digit

NHRN: National and/or regional identification numbers for product registration purposes and/or for the management of healthcare provider reimbursement

What you can't do

If a country uses a national number not encoded in the NHRN field, the pack would have to carry multiple data carriers and can't be shared.
The GS1 DataMatrix must only contain a single (01) data field, therefore two or more NTIN countries cannot share a pack

Find more details in the document *Recommendations on a harmonised implementation of the EU Falsified Medicines Directive using GS1 standards* at www.gs1.org/healthcare

Please note that the data (GTIN, NHRN) used in this poster are not real and for illustration purposes only. The illustrations in this poster are examples of how Human Readable Interpretation (HRI) and other regulatory required text on a pack (non-HRI text) can be combined to make efficient use of space. Refer to GS1 General Specifications section 4.14.1 Healthcare human readable interpretation rules for details: http://www.gs1.org/docs/barcodes/GS1_General_Specifications.pdf