



GHX to become GDSN-certified data pool to accelerate use of GS1 standards in healthcare

Established hospital-supplier connectivity and experience in healthcare data integrity and synchronisation will help enable the use of standards quickly and cost effectively

London – September 16, 2008 – GHX, LLC has announced plans to become part of GS1's Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) as a GDSN-certified data pool for the healthcare industry. GHX's existing infrastructure connecting hospitals and suppliers, along with its experience and expertise in data integrity and synchronisation, will enable healthcare organisations to more readily utilise GS1 standards and realise their benefits quickly and cost effectively. GHX will build out its current infrastructure to meet specific GS1 GDSN requirements, with certification as a data pool expected in 2009.

Chris Slater, Head of Supplies, Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust, commented: "This is a very welcome development, and now that technology providers such as GHX are becoming GDSN-certified, we also need to ensure that all suppliers and the wider NHS community understand the very tangible benefits of implementing standards compliance. At Leeds we're seeing real benefits, particularly for patient safety and also in commercial terms, from the use of GS1 standards. We are already working with GHX to help us navigate the complex supply network in which the NHS operates and ensure that we get the right medical product, in the right place, at the right time - every time."

Once GHX is certified as a data pool, manufacturers can utilise their existing connectivity to GHX to provide product data, including GS1's unique product identifier – the Global Trade Identification Number (GTIN) – to the GDSN in a manner compliant with global standards. Similarly, providers connected to GHX will be able to more easily access data from the GDSN, rather than having to establish new, separate connections. Healthcare suppliers and providers not integrated to GHX will have the option to participate in the GHX data pool as a standalone service.

"GS1 Healthcare welcomes GHX's participation as a data pool for the healthcare industry and looks forward to its certification in 2009. By working together, with our expertise as an international standards body and global network, and GHX as a trusted partner in the global healthcare supply chain, we can deliver on the promise of standards to healthcare faster and more efficiently," said Michel van der Heijden, president, New Sectors & Healthcare, GS1 Global Office.

Globally, GHX is connected to over 5,000 hospitals in North America and nine European countries. This includes hospitals representing more than 80 percent of the licensed beds in the US and the suppliers that sell more than 85 percent of the products purchased regularly by hospitals. On a global basis, participating hospitals and suppliers recognise the importance of standards for both clinical and business reasons and the role GHX can perform in accelerating their use.

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"Product identification coding that is digitally stored and synchronised from the manufacturer right through to the patient allows the supply chain to benefit from absolute data accuracy," says Steve Capel, Covidien's director of eBusiness for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. "GHX as a GDSN-certified data pool will ensure that hospital procurement and eHealth systems can use the identification data to streamline the purchasing process. This, in turn, allows the product to be uniquely identified at the point of use. It also creates a positive impact on supply chain efficiency and patient safety."

"The healthcare industry has recognised that adopting GS1 standards for product and organisational identification and synchronising data through the GDSN can address many of the most challenging problems facing the healthcare supply chain," says GHX Chief Executive Officer Bruce Johnson. "GHX is pleased to help accelerate GS1 standards adoption by not only becoming a data pool, but also through our membership and participation in global and local GS1 working groups."

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About GHX UK Ltd

GHX operates a transaction platform for suppliers and providers, with an array of different modules and services for e-procurement and integration, as well as the registration, management and examination of SKU master data. In 2007, GHX processed 500,000 transactions in the US alone, and processed more than \$30 billion of transactions in North America and Europe. Via GHX's central interface (GHX Exchange), currently over 200 medical institutions and 200 suppliers in the UK are communicating and trading electronically. Founded in 2001 and owned by a consortium representing the entire healthcare supply chain, GHX's global headquarters are in Denver, Colorado. The company's European headquarters are in Düsseldorf, with a local sales and development/technical support office in the UK to meet the particular needs of the NHS. Further information: <http://www.ghxuk.com>

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