data standards in the supply chain

research by Lee Ann Jarousse


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Data standards in the supply chain

Lack of data standards in the health care supply chain make it difficult to track and trace products, raising inefficiencies that raise cost and impact patient safety. "It's a common scenario that a patient gets the wrong item, the wrong dose of the wrong drug at the wrong time," says Steven Dudas, chief operating officer for Sisters of Mercy Health System, Seattle. "Inefficiencies that raise cost and impact patient safety. Visit your organization's supply room or station and take a look at the variety of items in the room. You'll soon see clearly the need for data standardization," says Siobhan O'Bara, vice president of health care for GS1 Healthcare U.S., March 2012.

The shift to data standardization in the supply chain is enabled by the adoption of GS1 Standards, which facilitate the movement of information from a primary source to the final recipient. "The GS1 System is a trading community that facilitates business processes across the supply chain by enabling the exchange of standards-based information," says O'Bara. "This includes the creation of a common language for doing business, including unique identifiers, location information, business relationship information and transaction communication." The GS1 System is widely used by organizations across industries, including healthcare, manufacturing, distribution and pharmaceutical organizations. It is implemented in all stages of the supply chain, from the point of origin to the final recipient. The system is designed to be adaptable and flexible, allowing organizations to meet their specific needs. It can accommodate a variety of business processes, including exchange of information, order management, inventory management, and financial transactions.

The GS1 System is supported by a range of tools and services, including the GS1 Global Location Number (GLN) and the GS1 Global Trade Item Number (GTIN). The GLN is a 13-digit number used to identify a business location, while the GTIN is a 14-digit number used to identify a product. These numbers can be used to track and trace products throughout the supply chain, ensuring accuracy and efficiency. The GS1 System also includes a suite of services, such as data management, trading partner management, and business process management, to support the adoption and implementation of GS1 Standards.

Key benefits of data standardization in the supply chain include:

- Improved accuracy and traceability
- Enhanced visibility and control of the supply chain
- Reduced costs and improved efficiency
- Improved patient safety and satisfaction
- Increased sustainability and environmental impact

In terms of progress toward adoption of GS1, where is your organization now?

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About the Standards

Do you require GS1s in your contract terms and conditions?

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integrity, trust, innovation, customer focus and execution with quality.
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