



## **IHF joins GS1 effort to improve patient safety through global supply chain standards**

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### **GENEVA, SWITZERLAND and BRUSSELS, BELGIUM, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2007**

The International Hospital Federation (IHF) and GS1 are joining forces to promote the development and adoption of global supply chain standards in hospitals for pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Patient safety can clearly be improved by implementing automatic product identification, through bar codes or radio frequency identification, in the Healthcare supply chain. Medication errors can be avoided by automatically matching product data to patient data. At the same time, this enables efficient tracking and tracing of pharmaceutical product and medical devices. It will also increase supply chain efficiency, driving much needed cost reductions.

"IHF is much concerned with and works on issues related to quality in health services. Ongoing projects and activities focus on patient safety and the whole spectrum of quality improvement. Our partners are the World Health Organization (WHO), Joint Commission International (JCI) and others," said Professor Per-Gunnar Svensson, IHF Director General.

IHF is now joining the GS1 Global Healthcare User Group (GS1 HUG™). This group consists of participants from all sectors of the Healthcare supply chain: manufacturers, wholesalers & distributors, as well as hospitals and pharmacy retailers. A number of hospitals already participate in the HUG activities, but this collaboration between IHF and GS1 enables intensifying the voice of the hospital community in this global programme. GS1 will also participate to IHF activities to promote patient safety through global supply chain standards. And the extensive network of local member organizations of both IHF and GS1 allows further collaboration on local and regional levels.

GS1 has 30 years of experience in global supply chain standards. Consumer goods retailers have experienced the power of global supply chain standards for many years now, including decreased supply chain costs and increased customer satisfaction because of fewer out-of-stocks, faster customer check-outs, .... Michel van der Heijden, President Healthcare & New Sectors GS1, is convinced that "in the same way, the Healthcare sector, by nature also global, will find its own advantages of global supply chain standards. In the first place ensuring the 5 patient rights, but also combating counterfeiting and enabling traceability."

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## **NOTES FOR EDITORS:**

### **IHF – International Hospital Federation**

The International Hospital Federation (IHF), successor to the International Hospital Association, established in 1929, is an association supported by members from some 100 countries. Since its creation in 1947, the IHF is recognized as an important international centre for the cross-fertilization of ideas in healthcare policy, finance and management. Its membership includes ministries of health, national and regional hospital associations, individual hospitals, commercial entities supplying to the healthcare industry and a broad range of professionals, management consultants, architects, medical and nursing administrators, health service management academics and government health planners. The Federation also has official relationships with the World Health Organization and the International Council of Nurses.

### **GS1 – The global language of business**

GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation.

GS1 is an organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility in supply and demand chains.

GS1 is driven by more than a million companies, who execute more than five billion transactions a day with the GS1 System of standards. This makes it the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

GS1's diversified portfolio ranges from GS1 Bar Codes to GS1 eCom (electronic commerce tools) to next generation technologies and solutions such as GS1 GDSN (Data Synchronisation), EPCglobal (using RFID technologies) and traceability.

GS1 is truly global, with local Member Organisations in 104 countries, and with Global Offices in Brussels, Belgium and Princeton, U.S.

GS1 operates in more than 20 industries and sectors ranging from Fast Moving Consumer Goods to Health Care, Transport & Logistics, and Defence. And the organisation serves large, small and medium-sized organisations.