



## ECCnet Registry, Canada's healthcare product registry

### Overview

The healthcare supply chain is global and complex, and it runs on data. Everything from ordering supplies and managing inventory, to patient menu planning and medication administration depends on accurate data flowing between healthcare suppliers and healthcare providers. Nowhere is this accuracy more imperative than in the patient care environment, with the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) confirming that data integrity is a vital pillar of patient safety.<sup>1</sup> For this reason, leading healthcare representatives – from providers to suppliers, distributors, GPOs and others – have been working with GS1 Canada to integrate medical device product data into ECCnet Registry, making ECCnet Registry Canada's healthcare product registry.

With the new category of medical device product data available in fall 2011, ECCnet Registry will be the most comprehensive, perpetually updated and continually validated registry of healthcare product data of its kind in Canada. It will be the single point of access between healthcare trading partners for exchanging vital product data used in every-day operations, from medical device product data, to data about pharmaceutical and food products. Based on global GS1 standards, and built according to GS1 Canada's proven model for driving data accuracy, ECCnet Registry will improve patient safety and drive cost savings across the Canadian healthcare system.

### How It Will Work

1. **Load Data:** A supplier will register their company with GS1 Canada and load their product data to ECCnet Registry, either by using a standards-based product listing form for direct loading, or loading through the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN). The supplier will maintain this product data on an ongoing basis.
2. **Request Subscription:** A data recipient, such as a hospital or SSO, will register their organization with GS1 Canada and subscribe to receive their suppliers' product data in ECCnet Registry.
3. **Publish Data:** The supplier will note the subscription, and grant the data recipient access to the requested information.
4. **Pull Data:** The data recipient will then be able to access, on an ongoing basis, the standardized product data loaded and perpetually maintained by the supplier, using it to populate their item master files and manage their internal operations.
5. **Confirm and Inform:** A confirmation will be sent to the supplier to inform them of any action when data is accessed.

### Value

Currently, many healthcare institutions and their suppliers use internally-developed codes to identify products in their systems and store related supply chain data – data which is then used in purchasing, shipping, receiving, storing and bedside use of healthcare products. This drives the potential for error – and therefore inefficiencies and patient risk – into the healthcare system.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ismp-canada.org/download/safetyBulletins/ISMPCSB2009-4-PharmaceuticalBarCodingMovingForwardinCanada.pdf>

According to a 2010 survey of Canadian healthcare providers conducted by third party Coremotive on behalf of GS1 Canada:

- 100% of respondents resolve inaccurate product data problems through manual intervention, which requires significant time and resources
- 100% of respondents identified that invoice matching is severely affected by inaccurate product information, resulting in delayed payment to vendors
- The majority of respondents identified that inaccurate product information is a barrier to the introduction of information technology and automation, and the largest barrier to effective analysis of where spending efficiencies can be found

By centralizing and standardizing the critical product data shared between healthcare organizations, ECCnet Registry is set to dramatically improve the accuracy and clarity of data used by the healthcare sector for operational and patient care purposes. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of healthcare providers who participated in the Canadian Healthcare Supply Chain Standards Survey stated that their organizations will adopt ECCnet Registry as part of their internal processes.<sup>2</sup>

## Why GS1 Canada

The Canadian healthcare sector is collaborating with GS1 Canada to integrate medical device product data into ECCnet Registry, based on the following:

- *Importance of Global Standards*

For over 35 years, the GS1 System of global supply chain standards has been transforming the way organizations worldwide communicate and work together, delivering proven results in multiple sectors, including the groundbreaking use of bar codes in retail. Now, through the Carenet Strategy, the Canadian healthcare sector is leveraging the value of GS1 standards, with 89% of healthcare providers and 75% of product suppliers that participated in the Canadian Healthcare Supply Chain Standards Survey indicating their belief that these standards will benefit the healthcare sector. The top four benefits for implementing global GS1 standards noted by both groups were: patient safety, enhanced product traceability, cost savings and error reduction.

- *Proven Model for Driving Data Accuracy*

GS1 Canada has implemented a proven model – the most robust of its kind in Canada – for driving data accuracy in data synchronization activities. This methodology is unique to GS1 Canada and follows global best practices:

- Per product and entire product catalogue certification
- Annual data integrity audits
- Online collaborative reporting tool for data discrepancy resolution
- User authentication processes
- Third party data validations

- *Neutral, Non-profit Status*

As a neutral, industry-led organization, GS1 Canada is mandated to bring together representatives of all sizes, from all points along the supply chain, to identify common pain points or opportunities to generate efficiencies through the development and application of global standards. As well, as a not-for-profit organization, GS1 Canada operates all services – including ECCnet Registry – based on cost-recovery.

**For More Information:** To register to use ECCnet Registry, or for more information, contact GS1 Canada Membership Services at: 1-800-567-7084 ext. 3.

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<sup>2</sup> Canadian Healthcare Supply Chain Standards Survey: <http://www.gs1ca.org/e/escan>