



ECCnet Registry, Canada's healthcare product registry Frequently Asked Questions

What is ECCnet Registry, Canada's healthcare product registry?

In 2009, the Canadian healthcare sector, through the [GS1 Canada Carenet Healthcare Sector Board](#), initiated a strategy for the creation of a GDSN-interoperable Canadian healthcare product registry. Launched in the healthcare sector 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. Product data in ECCnet Registry will range from the new category of medical device data to categories already available through GS1 Canada, such as grocery, pharmacy and foodservice data.

Why is ECCnet Registry important?

According to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), data integrity is a key factor in driving patient safety. For this reason, leading healthcare representatives – from healthcare providers, to suppliers, distributors, GPOs, and others – have been working with GS1 Canada on the development of this single national registry for healthcare product data. Based on global GS1 standards, and built according to GS1 Canada's proven model for driving data accuracy, ECCnet Registry will dramatically improve the accuracy and clarity of data used by the healthcare sector for operational and patient care purposes such as:

- product sourcing
- contracting
- order and inventory management
- traceability and recall
- spend analytics
- medication administration and other bedside care functions

Who is GS1 Canada?

GS1 Canada is the Canadian arm of GS1, the global, neutral, not-for-profit, industry-driven organization that manages the world's most widely used, multi-industry system of global supply chain 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. The bar code is the most well known GS1 standard, accounting for over 6 billion scanning transactions per day.

GS1 standards provide a global framework that allows products, services, and information to move efficiently and securely, making the supply chain faster, less complex and less costly. These voluntary standards ensure effective exchanges between companies around the world; facilitating interoperability and providing structure to many industries. Over 150 countries are



represented in the GS1 standards development process and over one million organizations worldwide use GS1 standards to enhance the efficiency and visibility of their supply chains.

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.

Why did industry approach GS1 Canada to develop and operate ECCnet Registry?

The Canadian healthcare sector is collaborating with GS1 Canada to launch 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 based on cost-recovery. ECCnet Registry will be built and operated in the healthcare sector according to these principles.



What is data validation?

All healthcare trading partners require that data stored in their systems is accurate in order to enable patient safety and supply chain optimization. GS1 Canada has implemented a proven system – the most robust of its kind in Canada and around the world – for driving data accuracy. This methodology includes:

- Per product and entire product catalogue certification – GS1 Canada undertakes manual verification of entire product catalogues as well as individual items as new products are loaded to its Registries, certifying that the data loaded is accurate and complete.
- An online collaborative reporting tool for data discrepancy resolution (GDR) – service for data recipients to communicate data discrepancies to both the supplier and GS1 Canada, which then enables corrected data to be published to all recipients at once
- Third party data validation: GS1 Canada acts as a third party between suppliers and data recipients to load validated data into required fields
- User authentication processes

How does ECCnet Registry work?

There are five steps that will enable healthcare supply chain partners to synchronize product data with each another via ECCnet Registry:

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.



When and how will ECCnet Registry be launched?

Launching in the healthcare sector 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.

ECCnet Registry will launch based on a “GTIN Jumpstart” approach – mass loading, by GS1 Canada, of approximately 100,000 GTINs. In collaboration with industry, GS1 Canada will accomplish this mass loading stage by leveraging suitable product information from two existing sets of Canadian healthcare product data currently being utilized by GS1 Canada Carenet members:

- a catalogue currently being used by a national distributor
- a database created by the Ontario Hospital Association during an Operating Room supply chain project

A minimum set of medical device product data attributes (fields) – consistent with existing Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) healthcare attributes – will be the first set of data required. The following product data attributes will be identified as **MS1**:

- 25 mandatory data attributes
- 26 optional data attributes (Note: each trade item may or may not require all the optional attributes.)

Important Note on Data Validations

For the Jumpstart phase, the validations on MS1 data will be basic data validations – limited automatic system settings that will flag discrepancies such as packaging hierarchy inconsistencies.

For other sectors, at the request of industry, GS1 Canada provides enhanced data validation services that include collaboration tools such as:

- GTIN discrepancy reports
- sector data audits and score carding
- enhanced third party validations
- data normalization capability

These data integrity services will not apply to the medical device category during the Jumpstart process.

Launch of the full attribute data set and data validation processes in ECCnet Registry will be determined based on industry-identified use cases, data integrity protocol adoption strategies, and timelines. This includes the number of attributes required in the full data set.



How will ECCnet Registry support providers, suppliers, distributors, Group Purchasing Organizations (GPOs) and Shared Services Organizations (SSOs)?

Accurate data is fundamental to advancing an efficient, safe and secure healthcare system. As such, in 2007, the Canadian healthcare sector, through the [GS1 Canada Carenet Healthcare Sector Board](#), initiated a strategy for the creation of a GDSN-interoperable Canadian healthcare product registry. Launched 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. Product data in ECCnet Registry will range from the new category of medical device data to categories already available through GS1 Canada, such as grocery, pharmacy and foodservice data.

Further, ECCnet Registry will support all healthcare trading partners by enabling:

- **Suppliers**
 - Elimination of duplicate systems and processes for sharing data with your trading partners and stakeholders
 - ✓ Provide relevant and required data on applicable products to every single customer or stakeholder, including government, on demand through ECCnet Registry
 - Cost savings and improved resource deployment, with less staff time spent on administrative functions such as resolving product data, pricing, shipping, and invoice errors
 - ✓ Centralize access to product data for your organization's internal use and product sell sheets
 - Enhanced supply chain efficiencies through automation, resulting in reduced manual processes and less paper forms
 - ✓ List your product data one time – data will be validated and cleansed to facilitate its effective use and value by all your trading partners
 - ✓ Immediately share any and all updates or additions to product data with your trading partners
- **Healthcare Providers**
 - Centralized access to accurate, standardized medical device, pharmaceutical, foodservice and consumer packaged goods product information, with tools to support integration of data into internal systems.
 - Improved accuracy in product procurement and inventory management through use of consistent, standardized product codes and descriptions adopted across the healthcare system.



- Reduced costs and improved resource deployment by:
 - reducing time spent reconciling errors in documents such as purchase orders and invoices
 - eliminating the need for staff to key in and maintain files of product data
- Enhanced patient safety resulting from access to continuously updated and validated product data – ensuring that the right patient gets the right product at the right time
- Improved business processes including:
 - Sourcing
 - Contracting
 - Order management
 - Inventory management
 - Consignment inventory
 - Recall
 - Traceability
 - Care use cases
 - Spend analytics
- **SSOs and GPOs**

One place to go, find and synchronize all the product data required to:

- Develop RFPs
- Complete and update item catalogues
- Facilitate member procurement
- Facilitate and complete valuable spend analytical reports

- **Distributors**

Utilization of ECCnet Registry for product information management needs:

- Complete and update item catalogues from one location, on a perpetual basis
- Capacity for full automation

Are there fees to load information to/retrieve information from ECCnet Registry?

As GS1 Canada is a not-for-profit association, the costs and operation of ECCnet Registry will be based on cost recovery.

Only GS1 Canada members may access the registry, therefore an annual licensing fee is required. This fee ranges from \$500 - \$1045, depending of the size of the organization.

For information on ECCnet Registry fees associated with data loading, maintenance and retrieval, contact GS1 Canada at 1.800.567.7084 ext. 3 or info@gs1ca.org.

Already a member? Login to mygs1ca.org for further information.



Are there costs to suppliers each time they make changes to data already loaded in ECCnet Registry?

No. Once product data is loaded to the registry, there are no additional fees for making changes.

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Who owns the data in ECCnet Registry?

As the product owners, suppliers own the data loaded to ECCnet Registry, and publish this data to their chosen data recipients. As such, suppliers are accountable for the completeness and accuracy of their product data in the registry.

What is the commitment model under which ECCnet Registry is operating?

Standards are most effective when everyone uses them. A commitment model is a resolution from industry to drive critical mass compliance by adhering to an industry-driven implementation roadmap and to drive the use, completeness and accuracy of data in ECCnet Registry.

In 2009, the GS1 Canada Carenet Healthcare Sector Board unanimously approved the industry-defined Standards Implementation Roadmap for the healthcare sector. Also in 2009, the Board unanimously approved a motion to advance ECCnet Registry as the centralized source for accurate, validated, perpetually updated healthcare product data, for the benefit of all trading partners, regulators and other stakeholders.

To encourage all healthcare trading partners to drive critical mass compliance and use of ECCnet Registry, the commitment model requires that:

- Suppliers use ECCnet Registry as a single source to communicate product data to their trading partners;
- Healthcare providers, SSOs, GPOs and distributors use ECCnet Registry as their single source to retrieve product information for item master file management and other business processes -- they will not require suppliers to provide product data in another format;
- Associations educate members and support their adoption of ECCnet Registry;



- GS1 Canada spearheads the community management process to drive collective industry adoption, provide the community with product listing and retrieval tools and support, and data validation services.

Why is the healthcare community moving towards a single registry of healthcare product information?

In 2007, the Canadian healthcare sector, through the [GS1 Canada Carenet Healthcare Sector Board](#), initiated a strategy for the creation of a GDSN-interoperable Canadian healthcare product registry. Launched in the healthcare sector 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.

This registry will eliminate the current, fragmented process of loading data to, and accessing data from, multiple sources, which creates the potential for errors and inefficiencies that must be manually resolved. Leveling the playing field for organizations of all size, ECCnet Registry will ensure that every trading partner across the healthcare supply chain can load or access accurate, perpetually updated healthcare product data from one central, online, trusted source.

Product data in ECCnet Registry will range from the new category of medical device data to categories already available through GS1 Canada, such as grocery, pharmacy and foodservice data. According to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), data integrity is a key factor in driving patient safety. For this reason, leading healthcare representatives – from healthcare providers, to suppliers, distributors, GPOs, and others – have been working with GS1 Canada on the development of this single national registry for healthcare product data.

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.

For more information, please contact:

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