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July 13, 2016

Dear Valued Trading Partners,

As members of GS1 Canada's Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee, we are implementing GS1 standards, including the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) for the Medical Device Category. As part of our implementation planning, we intend to utilize the GDSN to receive and integrate this data.

In light of recent developments, we are adjusting our request to receive your GDSN Medical Device Publication.

Background - Why the change in position?

In March 2016, GS1 Canada's Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee directed the review of healthcare provider data needs against the Target Market Canada attributes established and published within the GS1 Global Data Dictionary and also made available through the GDSN Target Market Canada Healthcare Attributes Guide**.** The Committee requested that GS1 Canada conduct this review in co-operation with the Carenet Healthcare Technical Standards Workgroup.

Through a collaborative process, 14 healthcare providers from across Canada shared their respective medical device attribute requirements, which were provided in the form of their Item Master File fields and/or their vendor listing form. The following results were the outcome of this review:

- Common medical device attributes across all healthcare providers were defined;
- Incremental attributes unique to each healthcare provider were identified;
- Attribute requirements were identified and sorted by each healthcare providers' business processes or use cases; and
- Healthcare provider specific attribute/field naming conventions were mapped to the GS1 Global Standard attribute definition.

GS1 Canada's Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee met on June 21, 2016 to review the above mentioned results. During this meeting, each Committee member acknowledged they were not prepared to advance a common Medical Device attribute requirement (previously identified as Target Market Canada).

This position was established for two primary reasons:

1) Healthcare providers are each targeting a different set of use cases, with different timelines for vendor data publication requests.
2) Although the attributes contained within the GDSN Target Market Canada Healthcare Attributes Guide remain ideal for current business and clinical needs of healthcare providers, it has come to our attention that only a limited number medical device vendors have this data ready for publication.

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For this reason, and to establish early adopter GDSN publication activity, we are asking medical device vendors to publish all available data to the GDSN Certified Data Pool selected by participating healthcare providers, even if this publication is missing some of the attributes initially requested by the collective Canadian community. We have agreed to take an individual approach to adoption, with state-of-readiness reviews being conducted by the Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee on a regular basis.

Members of the Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee also agreed that:

- It is important to facilitate clear communication to the vendor community about the attribute needs of each healthcare provider. This will assist vendors in loading medical device data into the GDSN.
- Each healthcare provider would select a GDSN Data Pool provider of their choice.
- GS1 Canada will host a Medical Device Attribute Communication tool that will detail the attribute requirements by each healthcare provider. This tool would be available on GS1 Canada's website as a guide for community. Additional information will be available by August 15, 2016.

This agreement has been established to enable short-term momentum, with the goal of GDSN providing our long-term medical device product data needs. Without a complete set of data, healthcare providers will continue to spend incremental time and money to supplement the missing product data, and the benefits will not be realized.

We understand that the roadmap to GS1 standards adoption is a journey that must be taken in partnership with the medical device community. We are encouraged about the benefits standards adoption has to offer to patients and the Canadian healthcare system, and thank you in advance for working in a co-operative manner so our respective efforts and timelines are met.

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About the Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee

Reporting to GS1 Canada's Carenet Healthcare Sector Board, the GS1 Canada Healthcare Provider Deployment Committee is representative of executive-level healthcare administrators (hospitals, shared services organizations (SSOs) and group purchasing organizations (GPOs) who will advance the roadmap and deployment strategy for the integration of GS1 standards and data integrity protocols; advancing a pan-Canadian initiative to achieve enhanced patient safety, improved health system quality and overall system efficiencies in the Canadian healthcare sector.

Members of the Healthcare Deployment Committee Include:

Name	Titles	Organization
Cynthia Valaitis	President & CEO	HealthPRO
Danny Purcell	VP, Finance & CFO	Montfort Hospital
David Loukras	e-Procurement Executive Project Sponsor	BC Clinical and Support Services (BCCSS)
Don Cummer	Account Executive	Plexxus
Éric Lefebvre	Director	SigmaSanté
Monique Porlier	Vice President Corporate Services	Headwaters Health, William Osler and CWCCAC
Jitendra Prasad	Chief Program Officer	Alberta Health Services (AHS)
Joanne Nicholson	Manager, Contract Management & Data Integrity	Central Ontario Healthcare Procurement Alliance (COHPA)
Michel Levesque	Executive Director – Supply Chain	FaciliCorp Service New Brunswick
Richard Tam	EVP &COO	Mackenzie Health

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Name	Titles	Organization
Ron Johnson	Chief Technology Officer	Eastern Health
Sandra Fedirchuk	Director of Quality Improvement and Patient Safety	Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA)
Shelley Moneta (Chair)	General Manager, Supply Chain	Mohawk Shared Services
Steve Forth	Vice President, Strategic Sourcing & Member Services	Medbuy Corporation
Toby O'Hara	General Manager	Healthcare Materials Management Services (HMMS)
Val Klassen	VP, Business Development	3sHealth

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GS1 Canada is a member of GS1, the world's leading supply chain standards organization. As a neutral, not-for-profit organization, GS1 Canada helps Canadian business succeed by enabling its more than 20,000 subscribers – trading partners of all sizes from over 20 sectors across Canada – to enhance their efficiency and cost effectiveness by adopting electronic supply chain best practices.

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