



Executive Q&A

With Sandi Michel LSSBB, MPMP, BSBA, ITIL
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Member of the GS1 Healthcare US Initiative Executive
Leadership Committee



Q: What are some key efforts within your company related to product data management, data quality and completeness that directly impact your company and patients?

A: After making the strategic decision to implement GS1 Standards and aligning our valued partners with our strategy for a fully automated supply chain, we developed our “Perfect Order” process. With the use of Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) and Global Location Numbers (GLNs) we can work to get the right product, to the right location, for the right physician, for the right procedure, for the right patient, at the right time, practically eliminating discrepancies.

We also implemented our “Best Unit of Measure” process to deliver supplies just-in-time to our hospitals in the lowest units of measure as appropriate using multiple levels of units of measure. The GLN hierarchy is designed to deliver supplies down to the PAR location by scanning the GLNs into our warehouse management system.

From these efforts, we have seen benefits in inventory management, vendor set-up, sourcing, purchasing and traceability. This positively helps the patients, customers, suppliers and our health system by reducing costs, increasing quality and supporting positive patient outcomes.

Q: Beyond meeting regulatory requirements, what benefits has your company gained from further use of the GS1 Standards?

A: Using GS1 Standards allows us to reduce waste and increase accuracy and flexibility during the ordering and distribution process. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had the ability to easily move product between hospitals to ensure there was inventory where usage had increased unexpectedly due to an unpredicted event that led to community spread. On-hand stock control allowed us to react quickly to unforeseen demand at the hospitals.

Q: What roles do you see GS1 Standards playing in healthcare in a post COVID-19 environment?

A: Maximizing the use of attributes housed in the Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN®), such as country of origin attribute, will be a major player in healthcare post COVID-19. Easy and automatic transmitting of manufacturing location data through the GDSN, Global Unique Device Identification Database (GUDID), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), Electronic Health Record (EHR) and beyond will allow for buying decisions based on availability of products and materials centered on geographical proximity for faster delivery of critical products.

Q: How has your company's participation in the GS1 Healthcare US Initiative® helped with strategic objectives identified by your organization and your own adoption and use of GS1 Standards?

A: Our participation in the GS1 Healthcare US Initiative was critical to establishing a solid foundation for our strategic objectives to standardize, centralize and consolidate products. The use of GS1 Standards like GTINs and GLNs in our own warehouse and hospitals, complemented with our “Best Unit of Measure” processes has allowed us to achieve our objectives for improving transparency and visibility in our supply chain operations.