



## Joint Media Release

### **New global collaboration between GS1 and IHTSDO supporting interoperability**

**For immediate release Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016** – GS1 and the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) recently announced the signing of a new collaborative agreement that supports interoperability in health information systems globally.

GS1's global trade item numbers (GTIN) are global standards for automatic product identification (through barcodes), used for patient safety and traceability. IHTSDO's SNOMED CT is a global standard that ensures semantically accurate clinical terminology for consistent use across health systems and services. The interoperability of these two standards will facilitate the link between clinical information in the patient record and the correct product administered to the patient at point of care, enabled by barcode scanning.

Kate Ebrill, Head of National Service Operation & Management at National E-Health Transition Authority said, "This global initiative signifies an important milestone that supports Australia's healthcare industry delivering a safe, interoperable system that streamlines the supply chain and creates a more efficient digital health system."

"We are excited about building on our previous collaborative efforts with GS1 through this new work." said IHTSDO CEO Don Sweete. "This new agreement focuses on concrete projects for linking GTINs and SNOMED CT to further support those in the delivery of care to patients and start to demonstrate benefits as early as next year".

There are four main areas of collaboration specified in the new global agreement, which runs until June 2017:

1. Develop guidance/principles for linking SNOMED CT and GTINs that can be applied at the national/local level
2. Explore options, feasibility and benefits for a technical solution/model at the international level to support local/national linkage between SNOMED CT and GTINs
3. Conduct joint communications about IHTSDO and GS1 standards working together
4. Explore options for education across healthcare communities based on feedback from subject matter experts, but likely focused on GS1 and IHTSDO products and services and collaborative activities

Miguel Lopera, GS1 CEO and President, commented "the use of GS1 global standards for product identification and data exchange is critical in addressing today's issues in healthcare systems and will help ensure patient safety by appropriately linking patient information with accurate product information in all Electronic Health Records".

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For more information about GS1 in Healthcare in Australia, visit [www.gs1au.org/healthcare/](http://www.gs1au.org/healthcare/)

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**About GS1 Healthcare** - GS1 Healthcare is a global, voluntary user community bringing together all Healthcare supply chain stakeholders, including manufacturers, distributors, Healthcare providers, solution providers, regulatory bodies and industry associations. The mission of GS1 Healthcare is to lead the Healthcare sector to the successful development and implementation of global standards by bringing together experts in Healthcare to enhance patient safety and supply chain efficiencies. GS1 Healthcare members include over 80 leading Healthcare organisations worldwide. For more information about GS1 Healthcare, please visit [www.gs1.org/healthcare](http://www.gs1.org/healthcare)

**About IHTSDO:** The International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization (IHTSDO) is owned and governed by 28 international members. We are a not-for-profit organization that works on behalf of the healthcare system and provides full support to our global members and licensees, ensuring that our combined resources achieve significant shared benefits that resonate around the world.

We strive to improve the health of humankind and are constantly seeking to determine global standards for health terms. We believe that the global healthcare community must safely, accurately, and effectively exchange health information in order to help patients everywhere.

**About GS1 Australia** – GS1 Australia is the leading provider of standards and solutions for over 20 industry sectors. We introduced barcoding to Australia in 1979 and today we enable more than 17,000 member companies, of all sizes, to become more efficient by implementing the GS1 system.

We bring businesses, associations and industries together. This blended community comes to GS1 Australia for advice, networking and solutions to their supply chain challenges. For more information visit <http://www.gs1au.org/>