

Joint News Release from
Geisinger Health System, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente,
Mayo Clinic and Mercy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS COLLABORATE FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF GS1® STANDARDS**

Industry-wide adoption is critical to improve patient safety and supply chain efficiency

ST. LOUIS (Dec. 7, 2010) – To improve patient safety and supply chain efficiency, Geisinger Health System, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic and Mercy have joined together to advance the adoption of GS1® Standards in the healthcare industry.

The 2010 GLN Sunrise, which calls for the implementation of GS1 Global Location Numbers (GLNs) in lieu of custom account/location numbers, is set for Dec. 31, 2010. The GLN is a 13-digit number used to uniquely identify any legal entity/trading partner, e.g. divisions of suppliers; functional entity, e.g. a nursing station; or physical location, e.g. hospital wing.

As the landscape continues to change in U.S. healthcare, supply chain leaders from some of the largest healthcare systems in the country – Geisinger, Intermountain, Kaiser, Mayo Clinic and Mercy, along with its supply chain division ROi – have formed a collaboration to share ideas and best practices from the implementation of GS1 Standards, including GLNs and Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs), within their systems. The group meets monthly with a bias for consistent action. The group is made up of action-oriented entities that have the vision and leadership to drive positive and consistent change in the industry. This collaboration does not compete with other adoption efforts, but amplifies its importance through the joint efforts of several highly visible and respected healthcare providers.

On behalf of their organizations, **Deb Templeton**, Vice President of Supply Chain Services, Geisinger Health System; **Brent Johnson**, Vice President of Supply Chain, Intermountain Healthcare; **Laurel Junk**, Vice President, Supply Chain, Kaiser Permanente; **Jim Francis**, Chair of Supply Chain Management, Mayo Clinic; and **Vance Moore**, President and CEO, ROi, issued this joint statement:

The implementation of GS1 Standards in healthcare is critical to helping our industry drive reform in supply chain processes. While the adoption of Global Location Numbers (GLNs) is instrumental to ensuring the right products are delivered to the right location, the next step for all supply chain partners across healthcare is to work toward implementation of Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs). We believe the adoption of GTINs will help providers capture the most value through the unique identification of every medical product.

A consistent platform across our industry is needed to identify products used on patients, to lay a foundation for comparative effectiveness research, and to help eliminate confusion and inefficiency due to the void of standards. Standards adoption will be transformational for optimizing the supply chain.

We believe that a single standard is essential to rapid adoption and believe that GS1 is the only valid standard we plan to support.

We have an opportunity as an industry to move forward together to enhance supply chain visibility, improve clinical decision making and reduce costs. It is now time to convert talk to action. It is time for supply chain leaders to adopt GS1 Standards.

-- more--

The collaborative is looking for ways to consistently adopt and operate using the standards, from the use of similar contract language specifying GS1 requirements to uniform adoption of the standards using similar operating methods. The group is going beyond endorsement and looking for practical and consistent uses that will further enable our supply chains. The group echoes a common message: talk is cheap, but action will drive real change.

The industry-established sunrise date for GTIN[®] adoption is Dec. 31, 2012. The GTIN is the unique GS1 System Identification Number used for trade items, products and services. It uniquely identifies trade items at all levels of packaging.

"GS1 Standards are used by more than one million GS1-member companies worldwide and the use of GS1 Standards in the healthcare industry continues to grow significantly," said Dennis Harrison, president, [GS1 Healthcare US](#), which was established in January 2008 at the request of the U.S. healthcare industry to provide a forum for industry members to drive the adoption and implementation of GS1 Standards. "In addition to helping improve patient safety, the implementation of GS1 Standards can help the industry better manage supply chains through accurate data and the ability to efficiently share data internally and externally."

The adoption of GS1 Standards also establishes a solid foundation for Federal healthcare regulatory requirements, such as Unique Device Identification (UDI), a uniform labeling system for identifying medical devices throughout the supply chain, from manufacturer to provider. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is working toward full implementation of the UDI system by September 30, 2013.

###

GS1 is a leading global organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of the supply and demand chains globally and across sectors. The GS1 system of standards is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. For more information, visit www.gs1.org.

Editor's Note: To schedule an interview with the following supply chain leaders related to GS1 Standards in healthcare, please reach the media contact listed below. To learn more about the healthcare systems, please visit their websites linked below:

Geisinger Health System (www.geisinger.org)

Media Contact: Che Parker, PR & Marketing, 570.271.7441 or caparker1@geisinger.edu

Intermountain Healthcare (www.intermountainhealthcare.org)

Media Contact: Daron Cowley, 801.442.2836 or intermountainnews@imail.org

Kaiser Permanente (www.kaiserpermanente.org / www.kp.org)

Media Contact: National Media Hotline 510.271.5953

Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.org)

Media Contact: Kathy Anderson, Mayo Clinic Dept. of Public Affairs, 507.284.5005

ROi (Mercy's Supply Chain Division) (www.roiscs.com)

Media Contact: Kathie Woehrmann, 314.364-6535 or kathleen.woehrmann@roiscs.com