

Healthcare Transformation Group

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*News Release from Geisinger, Intermountain Healthcare,
Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic and Mercy*

Physicians and Clinical Researchers Take the Lead on UDI

ST. LOUIS – The Healthcare Transformation Group (HTG) has announced the establishment of a Research and Development (R&D) Team, comprised of physicians and clinical researchers from the five HTG healthcare systems – Geisinger, Intermountain Healthcare, Kaiser Permanente, Mayo Clinic and Mercy.

The team will advance the goals of the HTG, including the adoption of GS1® Standards, and jointly accelerate the healthcare systems' work to implement a Unique Device Identification (UDI) system. The HTG R&D team is made up of the following representatives:

- Joseph Drozda, Jr., M.D., Director of Outcomes Research, Mercy
- Jove Graham, Ph.D., Director of Clinical Research Project Development, Geisinger Center for Health Research, Geisinger Health System
- J. Brent Muhlestein, M.D., Cardiology, Intermountain Healthcare
- Liz Paxton, M.A., Director of Surgical Outcomes, Kaiser Permanente
- Robert F. Rea, M.D., Cardiovascular Diseases, Mayo Clinic

"We are focused more than ever on the full implementation of a UDI system in our industry," explains Dr. Joseph Drozda, Mercy. "Clinicians clearly see the value of the adoption of data standards."

Dr. Robert Rea, Mayo Clinic, adds, "We also see the clear value and benefits of tracking medical devices and the positive impact this has on our patients and industry."

The HTG R&D Team will be working to establish a standard language and network of data sets within their healthcare systems. The project, which is an expansion of a FDA UDI demonstration project currently underway, will eventually provide a pathway to implement UDI into each HTG healthcare system's clinical processes, tracking devices end-to-end from manufacturer to research database.

"We believe in the clinical benefits of GTIN methodology and the use of the UDI system to benefit patient safety," adds Dr. J. Brent Muhlestein, Intermountain Healthcare.

"We fully support the work of the HTG to adopt standards and implement UDI in our healthcare systems," says Jove Graham, Geisinger. "The ability to manage devices through the supply chain, and create data sets for research and safety surveillance is critical."

Liz Paxton, Kaiser Permanente, explains, "We are moving forward so that ours and other healthcare systems and patients can benefit from broader adoption and use of GTINs by manufacturers to build off our registry work so that all can better manage recalls going forward and further support our work around comparative effectiveness research."

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About the Healthcare Transformation Group (HTG)

In 2010, five healthcare systems — [Geisinger Health System](#), [Intermountain Healthcare](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), [Mayo Clinic](#) and [Mercy](#) — formed an action-oriented collaboration to share best practices and drive needed positive change across the healthcare supply chain. The first focused initiative being addressed is the implementation of GS1[®] Standards. The collaboration, called the [Healthcare Transformation Group \(HTG\)](#), evolved as an extension of each member's involvement in healthcare's movement toward standards adoption. HTG members share this common foundation: accelerate change across the supply chain; enhance patient safety; improve supply chain efficiencies; drive the adoption of [GS1 Standards](#) with suppliers; and communicate in the marketplace through one voice.

Editor's Note: To schedule an interview with the healthcare systems included in this news release, please reach the media contact listed below.

Geisinger Health System (www.geisinger.org)

Media Contact: Amanda O'Rourke, PR & Marketing, (570) 214-9091 or akorourke@geisinger.edu

Intermountain Healthcare (www.intermountainhealthcare.org)

Media Contact: Daron Cowley, (801) 442-2836 or intermountainnews@imail.org

Kaiser Permanente (<http://xnet.kp.org/newscenter/>)

Media Contact: National Media Hotline (510) 271-5953

Mayo Clinic (www.mayoclinic.org)

Media Contact: Suzanne Leaf-Brock, Mayo Clinic Dept. of Public Affairs, (507) 284-1114 or sleaf@mayo.edu

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

Media Contact: Kathie Woehrmann, (314) 364-6535 or kathleen.woehrmann@roiscs.com