

Healthcare Transformation Group

Position Statement

Adoption and Consumption of UDI and GS1 Standards in e-Commerce

HTG believes that all products should be easily identifiable from the time they enter the healthcare supply chain to the point in time they are used on a patient. This identification is vital to removing risk associated with using products for our patients and providing the healthcare industry clear product traceability and post market surveillance. To this end, HTG fully supports the adoption of GS1 standards and the leveraging of the UDI throughout the healthcare supply chain down to the point of usage capture. HTG would like suppliers, solution providers, GPOs, and distributors to adopt the use of GS1 standards and the UDI (where applicable) through all of their transactions, applications and interactions.

Position

HTG has an expectation that suppliers who are e-Commerce trading partners will be able to transact with UDI and GS1 standards through the following e-Commerce transactions:

- 832 – Price/Sales catalog - UOM and the GTIN (DI) included for each item as well as the GLN
- 850 – Purchase Order transaction – Suppliers need to be able to accept (providers to send) a GTIN (Pre-Consumption DI) and Post-Consumption PI where applicable on the outbound PO as well as the appropriate GLN to identify provider location – the expectation for the Supplier is that they will be able to accept this information and return it back through the 855, 856 and 810
- 855 – Purchase Order Acknowledgement – Return the reciprocating information back to support the closure of the PO
- 856 – Advance Ship Notice (ASN) – Return the provider GLN and ensure that the UDI that is sent (including GTIN, Lot/Serial, and Expiration except for products that do not have Expiration Date) reflects the actual Shipping UOM – Packing slip should also contain the GTIN
- 810 – Invoice – Return the provider GLN and ensure that the UDI is sent (including GTIN, Lot/Serial, and Expiration as applicable).

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Note:

DI – Device Identifier (GTIN)

PI – Production Identifier (Lot/Serial & Expiration date)

HTG expects all other advanced EDI transactions to incorporate the GS1 and UDI standards as applicable i.e. 867 – Sales Tracing, 852 Inventory on-hands, 837 Claims Remittance (and associated documents), etc.

Benefits of Adoption and Consumption of UDI and GS1 Standards in e-Commerce

The adoption and consumption of UDI and GS1 standards in e-Commerce is mutually beneficial for HTG and HTG suppliers. Each e-Commerce transaction that includes the applicable UDI will increase accuracy, cost efficiency and provide better logistics management in the supply chain.

- Order accuracy (Correct Item, correct Unit of Measure, correct Price, correct Ship To Location)
- Increase in price load accuracy
- Decrease in invoice match exceptions (Resulting in more timely invoice payment)
- Decrease in discrepancies (backorder, Price, UOM, Part Number)
- Increased productivity, increasing the time people can work on other value-added activities
- Fewer number of calls to customer service, increasing satisfaction
- Improved inventory management with fewer stock outs, increasing product availability for improved patient care
- By using GTINs, trading partners can eliminate cross-reference tables for translating provider-assigned product numbers to a manufacturer's catalogue number, thus reducing potential errors.
- GTIN usage can also eliminate confusion when dealing with products containing multiple levels of packaging. Each unique GTIN is assigned to a unit of measure; so there is no need for the healthcare provider to supply a UOM in the EDI message, ensuring that the correct level of packaging is ordered, shipped and invoiced.

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- By assigning GLNs, healthcare providers are not required to use the manufacturer-assigned, or distributor-assigned customer numbers for EDI, again eliminating the need to map tables and resulting potential errors.
- Supports future outbound e-commerce transaction that may be required through the x12 Leveraging UDI on claims forms