Drug Supply Chain Security Act* Barcoding Recommendations

AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health, and McKesson Pharmaceutical provide the following recommendations for suppliers:

- Pay particular attention to barcode placement on cases and packages to avoid readability issues.
- Refer to and implement GS1 Standards for barcode size, placement, encoding, and more to improve barcode quality.
- Accelerate the implementation of serialization and work out any issues now before the deadline.
- Take advantage of assistance provided by all three wholesalers, including sample barcode testing, educational sessions, and individualized support.
- Use the DSCSA education and implementation resources available from GS1 Healthcare US*.
- Keep your eye on the “prize” for all trading partners, as the promise of a standardized, highly efficient, global supply chain becomes a reality.

What Industry Leaders Say

“AmerisourceBergen

“We have built a center of excellence for barcodes in logistics. We want to use this knowledge to help manufacturers, because if we don’t work together now to fix these barcodes and ensure compliance with standards, it will impact the entire supply chain in the upcoming years.”

Ameer Ali, Senior Manager of Secure Supply Chain & Manufacturer Operations, AmerisourceBergen

“Cardinal Health

“The transition to 2D barcodes is huge for us operationally and will help take our business and our customers to the next level of delivering efficient and safer healthcare.”

Michael Rowe, Manager of Operations Technology (Track & Trace), Cardinal Health

“McKesson

“We noticed that some suppliers had issues with this practice, including improperly formed GTINs (product identifiers). This can cause confusion and problems for downstream trading partner scanning systems and transactional databases... We identified the suppliers that had not properly generated their GTINs because they had not encoded the NDC number in the right way. We have had conversations with about 50 manufacturers to date, providing specific feedback on the barcode data we captured.”

Scott Mooney, Vice President of Distribution Operations, Supply Chain Assurance, McKesson Pharmaceutical

Learn how GS1 US® can help. Visit www.gs1us.org/dscsa.

*For information about the act, see the 2013 Drug Supply Chain Security Act.

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