Pharmaceutical Supplier
GLN Quick Start Guide

For implementing unique location identification using the GS1 Global Location Number (GLN)

If your company has joined the industry-wide movement to adopt Global Location Numbers (GLNs) to improve the management of location information, the Pharmaceutical Supplier GLN Quick Start Guide will help you get started today.

This Pharmaceutical Supplier GLN Quick Start Guide provides a brief overview of the steps and resources detailed in the Healthcare Supplier GLN Tool Kit that are needed for a successful GLN implementation within your organization.

Select one of the two options below based on your organization’s member status with GS1 US®. If you already have a GS1 Company Prefix, you are a member of GS1 US. If you do not have a GS1 Company Prefix, then review Option 2 for non-GS1 US members to learn how to license a GS1 Company Prefix and create your company’s uniquely identified Global Location Number.

GLN Implementation in the U.S. Pharmaceutical Industry

The goal of GLN implementation in the U.S. pharmaceutical industry is to use standardized location identification (also known as GLNs) to uniquely identify any location or legal entity to accurately track and trace pharmaceutical products across their supply chains in support of the following use cases:

- Saleable returns with Verification Router Services (VRS)
- Track and trace with Electronic Product Code Information Services (EPCIS)
- Communicating master data with the Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN®)

Which means:

- GLNs are assigned by location owners
- GLNs are used in appropriate business transactions and processes between trading partners
- GLN hierarchy is defined and maintained by location owners
- GS1 US Data Hub® | Location may be used to facilitate correct location identification
Option 1: GS1 US Member With a GS1 Company Prefix

If your company already licenses a GS1 Company Prefix, these steps outline how to get, create, assign, and use your GLNs:

1. Determine if there is an individual within your company who assigns GLNs

Check with individuals who are participating in the following activities that require the use of GLNs:

*Helpful Hint:* Identify your designated GS1 US subscription holder or subject matter expert (SME) on GLNs within the organization. This SME may be from your serialization, supply chain, or IT team.

- Per the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) November 27, 2019 verifiable saleable returns milestone, many pharmaceutical trading partners require their suppliers to share GLNs to support the use of VRS for saleable returns.¹
- Support saleable returns with VRS, track and trace with EPCIS, and communicating master data with the GDSN.
- If you have a consumer retail division, check with your colleagues to determine if a GLN has been assigned.

2. Assign GLNs

As a member of GS1 US with a licensed GS1 Company Prefix, your company has access to the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool, which enables you to create and manage GLNs for your own locations, at no charge for a single user.

- Access your company’s “Legal Entity” GLN, preloaded in GS1 US Data Hub | Location, which serves as the top level of your GLN hierarchy.
- Assign additional GLNs as business needs dictate.
- Check the “Validate Location” box in GS1 US Data Hub | Location to show that you are regularly reviewing your GLNs.

3. View and use your trading partners’ GLNs

If you wish to view and use GLNs from your trading partners, you should subscribe to the GS1 US Data Hub | Location View/Use option.

- Annual fees apply, based on the options you choose and the number of users. Users with access to GS1 US Data Hub can log in at dh.gs1us.org.

*Note:* A View/Use subscription is required to view other companies’ location information (including Global Location Numbers and location organizational structure provided by location owners).

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¹ DSCSA Pub Law No. 113-54, 127 Stat 599 (2013)
Option 2: Non-GS1 US Member Joining GS1 US

1. License a GS1 Company Prefix
Your company will need to license a GS1 Company Prefix to create Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) for barcoding products and GLNs to identify locations to meet trading partner needs.
- Apply for a GS1 US Company Prefix online at www.gs1us.org.
- GS1 Company Prefix fees are based on the number of products and locations you need to identify.
- Establish your password to the GS1 US User Portal (our online member center) as soon as you receive your welcome email.
  (The GS1 US member site user login credentials also support access to GS1 US Data Hub.)

2. Designate responsible party within your organization for GLN assignment (e.g., IT, Marketing, Supply Chain)

3. Assign GLNs
By licensing a GS1 Company Prefix through GS1 US you automatically have access to the GS1 US Data Hub | Location Create/Manage tool for creating and managing GLN data at no additional cost.
- Access your company’s “Legal Entity” GLN, preloaded in GS1 US Data Hub | Location, which serves as the top level of your GLN hierarchy.
- Assign additional GLNs as business needs dictate.
- Check the “Validate Location” box in GS1 US Data Hub | Location. Validation will check your GLN address against the U.S. Postal Service for accuracy.

4. View and use your trading partners’ GLNs
If you wish to view and use GLNs from your trading partners, please subscribe to the GS1 US Data Hub | Location View/Use with the Export option.
- Annual fees apply, based on the options you choose and the number of users.

Learn More

Don't need a GS1 Company Prefix?
If your company has no need for a GS1 Company Prefix, you can still sign up for GS1 US Data Hub | Location as a View/Use subscriber. This allows you to search for and export GLN information for your business partners that also use the tool.

Annual fees apply, based on your subscription options and the number of users accessing the tool.

Optionally, you may choose to attend the GS1 US Data Hub | Location User Group meetings:
- The Group meets the second month of each quarter, typically on Thursday at 11 AM ET.
- Apply for membership through the GS1 US Community Room community.gs1us.org/join or community.gs1us.org/apps/org/workgroup/dhlocusers.
- Ask questions and learn best practices from other industry members.
- Find business partners that are ready to use GLNs in transactions.

GS1 Healthcare US Implementation Resources:
- Healthcare Supplier GLN Tool Kit
- Healthcare GLN Industry Implementation Guideline
- Healthcare GLN Case Studies and Use Cases
- GEPIR®
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*If applicable