If you are a Pharmaceutical Dispenser/Healthcare Provider preparing to join the industry-wide movement to adopt the GS1 Global Location Number (GLN) to meet the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) unique location identifier requirement, this Quick Start Guide will help you get started.

This Quick Start Guide summarizes the options available and steps needed for a successful GLN implementation. It also provides a brief overview of the resources detailed in the Healthcare Supplier GLN Tool Kit.

Pharmaceutical Dispensers and Healthcare Providers who have a licensed GS1 Company Prefix or who are a part of a Group Purchasing Organization (GPO), may already have a GLN. It is advised that you check with your GPO to verify if your locations are already enumerated with a GLN within the GS1 US Data Hub® | Location tool. Select one of the three options below, based on your organization’s GPO or GS1 US® member status.

• If you are a member of GS1 US with a Company Prefix and Entity GLN, please review Option 1.

• If you are a member of a participating GPO, please review Option 2.

• If you are a member of a non-participating GPO and a non-GS1 US member, then review Option 3 to learn how to license a GS1 Company Prefix and create your company’s unique GLN.

1  DSCSA Pub Law No. 113-54, 127 Stat 599 (2013)
GLN Implementation in the U.S. Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

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)²
- Communicating master data with the Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN*)

Which means:

- GLNs are used in appropriate business transactions and processes between trading partners, such as in Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) transactions and EPCIS
- 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 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.³
- 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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³ DSCSA Pub Law No. 113-54, 127 Stat 599 (2013)
Option 2: Member of a Participating GPO

1. Contact your GPO to find out the process to obtain an editor User ID for the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool to view and manage your organization’s GLNs

Currently the following six GPOs participate in the use of the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool:

- HealthTrust
- Intalere, Inc.
- Premier
- Roi
- The Resource Group
- Vizient, Inc.

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

3. Using your editor credentials obtained from your participating GPO, login to the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool to review your GLN hierarchy and refine as needed

- Assume the approver role from the GPO
- For GLNs you have verified as accurate, check the “Validated” box in GS1 US Data Hub | Location
- Align hierarchy with supply chain partners in the following order:
  - GPO (roster)
  - Wholesale Distributor (master data)

4. View and use your trading partners’ GLNs

This provides you the ability to access your trading partners GLN data to be used in transactions and applications such as VRS, EPCIS, applicable EDI transactions used, and the GDSN.

5. Share Data

Use the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool to share your location data before you transact with manufacturers and/or wholesale distributors using GLNs.
Option 3: Member of a Non-Participating GPO and Non-Member of GS1 US

1. Join GS1 US and license a GS1 Company Prefix
Your company will need to license a GS1 Company Prefix to create GLNs to identify locations to meet trading partner needs. Creating your company's unique Legal Entity GLN is simple and inexpensive. For as little as a $250, you can license a GS1 Company Prefix and receive your Legal Entity GLN. You can view GS1 Company Prefix pricing and capacity information at [www.gs1us.org/getyourbarcode](http://www.gs1us.org/getyourbarcode).

- Apply for a GS1 US Company Prefix online at [www.gs1us.org](http://www.gs1us.org).
- GS1 Company Prefix fees are based on the number of 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.

   *Note:* The GS1 US member site user login credentials also support access to GS1 US Data Hub.

2. Create your GLN hierarchy in the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool and check the “Validated” box

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

4. View and use your trading partners’ GLNs in business transactions
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.
- Users with access to GS1 US Data Hub | Location can log in at [dh.gs1us.org](http://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).

5. Share Data
Use the GS1 US Data Hub | Location tool to share your location data before you transact with manufacturers and/or wholesale distributors using GLNs.

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](http://community.gs1us.org/join) or [community.gs1us.org/apps/org/workgroup/dhlocusers](http://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:**
- GS1 US Resources for the Pharmaceutical Industry
- Implementation Guide: Applying GS1 Standards for DSCSA and Traceability
- FAQ Guide: Developed to help assist the U.S. Pharmaceutical Industry in implementing GS1 Standards to support DSCSA requirements
- Guide: GLN Hierarchy Best Practices
- Healthcare Provider GLN Tool Kit
- Implementation Guide: GLN in Healthcare
- Pharmaceutical Supplier GLN Quick Start Guide
- Healthcare GLN Case Studies and Use Cases
- GEPIR®