



Position Statement

Call for Pharmaceutical (Rx) and Over-the-Counter (OTC) Manufacturers to Become Rx2 Certified in ECCnet Registry

Statement of Direction

The GS1 Canada Healthcare Pharmacy Sector Board is calling for pharmaceutical (Rx) and over-the-counter (OTC) manufacturers' immediate attention in regards to becoming Rx2 Certified in ECCnet Registry, Canada's national product registry, by the following scheduled timelines:

April 1, 2010 Manufacturers with less than 50 applicable Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) to complete loading product data.

September 1, 2010 Manufacturers with more than 50 applicable GTINs to complete loading product data.

To find out the specific GTINs in your product catalogue that are applicable for Rx2 Certification, contact GS1 Canada at 1.800.567.7084 ext. 341 or email ECCnetSupport@gs1ca.org.

Overview

In support of leading pharmacy retailers, wholesalers and government agencies' ECCnet Registry implementation plans for 2009 - 2010, the GS1 Canada Healthcare Pharmacy Sector Board has identified timelines for Rx and OTC drug manufacturers to complete loading of product information to ECCnet Registry in order to achieve Rx2 Certification.

ECCnet Registry is a single point of access between trading partners, enabling vendors to load and maintain accurate, standardized product information in one central repository. ECCnet Registry data is accessible to vendor-approved trading partners and industry stakeholders that require up-to-date product information to effectively conduct their daily business processes, such as new product listing and inventory management processes.

Rx2 attributes represent the most recent set of Rx and OTC product data fields added to ECCnet Registry. Industry identified and standardized all attributes in order to ensure that the product data that is captured represents the required information to effectively conduct and manage everyday business activities. Realizing the full benefits of data synchronization through ECCnet Registry also eliminates manual product listing processes that result in data errors due to human manipulation.

With ECCnet Registry, Rx2 Certification is achieved by confirming manufacturers who have successfully completed the loading of all required pharmacy product data fields.

See the list of [Rx2 attributes in ECCnet Registry](#).

If your organization has not yet attained Rx2 Certification for your Rx or OTC product data, contact GS1 Canada at 1.800.567.7084 ext. 341 or email ECCnetSupport@gs1ca.org.



Why Are Product Loading Deadlines Required?

Organizations across Canada's pharmacy supply chain have demonstrated their commitment to ECCnet Registry, with a growing number of manufacturers, retailers, distributors and wholesalers not only undertaking implementation, but also making ECCnet Registry and other GS1 Canada services part of their standard terms and conditions of trade.

With the availability of Rx2 product data attribute fields, organizations are now planning full integration of ECCnet Registry data within their systems, with the expectation to "turn off the paper" in 2010. Organizations planning to integrate or have already initiated implementation of ECCnet Registry include Jean Coutu Pharmacy, McKesson Canada, Kohl and Frisch Limited, and Sobeys, among others. Public service agencies are also realizing the benefits of accessing product data through ECCnet Registry, with the Public Health Agency of Canada planning integration in order to access vaccine information.

Benefits to Industry

Industry commitment to ECCnet Registry is predicated on the need for a single source of complete and accurate product information. This improves product traceability within the supply chain, enables enhanced patient safety capabilities by reducing medication errors, and decreases business process costs.

Many Canadian pharmaceutical manufacturers use ECCnet Registry to streamline their product listing processes by extracting critical product data – such as the Drug Identification Number (DIN), Natural Product Number (NPN), Active Ingredient, and Dosage Form, to name a few – in a format (i.e. listing form) required by their retailer and wholesaler trading partners.

By providing trading partners with accurate and up-to-date product data in their specified format, Rx and OTC manufacturers can limit the pain points that occur in daily business processes due to incomplete and/or inaccurate product data, realizing such benefits as:

- Providing product information to multiple trading partners in a single, standardized format;
- Gaining access to new retail and wholesale trading partners by listing product data in ECCnet Registry;
- Improving the accuracy of purchase orders and invoicing through clean and up-to-date product data;
- Lowering logistics and transportation costs resulting from correct product orders;
- Reducing out-of-stocks and misshipments for retailers and wholesalers as a result of accurate data and complete product orders; and
- Increasing the speed-to-market of new product information with ECCnet Registry's streamlined product listing process.

About GS1 Canada

GS1 Canada is a member of GS1, the world's leading supply chain standards organization. As a neutral, not-for-profit organization, GS1 Canada enables its more than 10,000 members – trading partners of all sizes from over 20 sectors across Canada – to enhance their efficiency and cost effectiveness by adopting electronic supply chain best practices. Go to www.gs1ca.org for more information



GS1 Canada Healthcare Pharmacy Sector Board

GS1 Canada's Healthcare Pharmacy Sector Board will identify projects that support the adoption of a common system of supply chain standards both in healthcare institutions, and retail pharmacy. This will improve patient safety, cost efficiency and staff productivity, ultimately ensuring that Canada's healthcare trading partners are able to fully operate in an increasingly e-driven global supply chain reality.



James Beaumariage
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George Craigie, Co-Chair
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Mark Ferdinand
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François Gratton
TELUS Health Solutions (backed by Emergis)



Richard Jones
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Frank Kwiecien
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