The Global Language of Business

Questions for Trusts to ask Solution Providers

Below are some suggested questions for Trusts to ask when discussing GS1 standards-based solutions with solution providers

The following questions can't cover every possible implementation scenario, but they do provide a framework from which Trusts can think about what they need to ask to make sure the solution is right for them.

The questions in this document should be included in an overall collection of questions that cover all aspects of selecting the required solution. For example, when selecting barcode scanners, questions related to GS1 standards such as "can this scanner read, decode and parse information encoded in GS1 barcodes?" are important. However, other considerations for scanner selection, not related to GS1 standards, might include:

- How long do scanners typically function before needing to be recharged?
- Can the battery be charged without special tools?
- Can scanners be wiped with disinfectants used in the facility?

These types of questions are not included in this document.

Questions?

Contact the healthcare team at GS1 UK:
healthcare@gs1uk.org

Suggested GS1 standards-specific questions

		GS1 Standards Category	Describe your current capabilities.
Software – storage of GS1 standard identifiers and relevant data	**1.**	Product ID	• Does the system currently have a 14-digit field to hold the GTIN at each relevant level of product packaging? • When necessary, can the system currently create GTINs in addition to storing these? • Does the software currently have the native capability to process the GS1 GTIN and store this in the appropriate data field?
	2.	Traceability Information	• Is there current capability to link batch, expiry and serial number information to the GTIN? • Does the system have the native capability to process information such as batch number, expiry date and serial number and store this data in the appropriate data fields?
	3.	Patient ID	• If the system is used as part of processes in the patient care pathway, can the GS1 GSRN + SRIN be stored and have information, as well as relevant staff ID information associated with this? • Does the system currently meet the use cases identified in CEN/ISO TS 18530?
	4.	Caregiver ID	• If the system is used as part of a clinical process for staff identification, can the GS1 GSRN + SRIN be stored and have GTINs as well as relevant staff ID information associated with this? • Does the system meet the use cases identified in CEN/ISO TS 18530?
	5.	Location ID	• Can GLNs currently be created and stored in the system, then used as appropriate? • Depending upon the function of the software, can GLNs be related to GTINs (for identification of product storage or use in a location), patient (patient location), caregiver (to record care provision location)?
	6.	Asset ID	• If the system is used to track/manage assets, can GS1 identifiers for assets (both GIAI and GRAI) be stored in the system, and depending upon the function of the software related to GTINs (for identification of product), patient (assets used for patient), caregiver (assets used by caregiver), and GLN (location of asset)?
	7.	Master Data	• Can data fields, as defined in the GS1 Global Data Dictionary (GDD) and resulting GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)-compliant master data be mapped into the software and stored associated with each level of product packaging? • Does the software currently contain all GDSN and country specific validations? • How does your company maintain these? • Can master data be aggregated and processed further?
	8.	EDI	• If the solution requires EDI exchange, can the EDI solution currently use the GTIN, GLN, SSCC and other associated data, as defined in line with the GS1 Healthcare EDI Implementation Guidelines?
	9.	Overall identifier	• Does the system have the capability to receive identifiers from another system (e.g. a master management index) rather than requiring the local generation of identifiers? • Does the system validate the correctness of the GS1 identifiers used?

Suggested GS1 standards-specific questions

		GS1 Standards Category	Describe your current capabilities.
Hardware	**1.**	Barcode scanners	• Can the scanner decode all GS1 identifiers and associated standardised data encoded GS1 barcode symbols, in line with the GS1 General Specifications (e.g. GTIN, batch, expiry and serial number encoded in a GS1 DataMatrix barcode)? • Can the scanner currently decode GS1 barcodes in all conditions?
	2.	Label printers	• Can the label printer print all GS1 barcode symbols in line with GS1 General Specifications and any relevant local or regional guidelines? If compliant with location or regional guidelines please specify which ones.
	3.	Direct part marking solutions	• Can the solution print all GS1 barcode symbols in line with GS1 General Specifications?
Master Data	**1.**	Data storage	• Can required GDD-compliant master data be mapped into the software and stored associated with each level of product packaging?
	2.	Data Standards	• Is there support for fields and formats defined in the GS1 GDD or mapping from the GDD defined fields to native fields?
	3.	Messaging format	• Is the format of the messages received and generated by the system currently in compliance with the GS1 GDSN standards?
	4.	Messaging choreography	• Are the messages exchanged in the choreography currently in line with the GS1 GDSN specifications?
	5.	Data quality	• Are all data quality checks specified by the GDSN standards and location / regional requirements supported by the solution?

Suggested GS1 standards-specific questions

		GS1 Standards Category	Describe your current capabilities.
EDI Master Data	**1.**	Use of identifiers	• Can the EDI solution use the GTIN, GLN, SSCC and other associated data, in line with the GS1 Healthcare EDI Implementation Guidelines?
	2.	Messaging format	• Is the format and structure of the EDI messages generated and received in line with the GS1 Healthcare EDI Implementation Guidelines?
	3.	Data storage	• Can all specified GDSN-compliant master data currently be mapped into the software and stored associated with each level of product packaging? • Is this currently duplicated from the master data rather than having a need to be entered by local staff?
	4.	Message choreography	• Is there currently support for message choreography in line with that specified in the GS1 Healthcare Global Harmonised EDI Guidelines?
EPCIS	**1.**	Connectivity	• How would you assess if our current architected data storage will support EPCIS connectivity (for efficiently receiving and providing data to the data store)?
	2.	Interface conformance	• Does the solution implement the EPCIS Capture and Query interfaces, in conformance with the EPCIS standard?
	3.	Data content	• Is the implementation of EPCIS messages currently compliant and/or compatible with the Core Business Vocabulary?
	4.	Data syntax	• Does the implementation of EPCIS messages conform to the EPCIS XML schema?
	5.	Regulatory support	• Do EPCIS events include fields and values required by the local regulator?