



Southern NHS Trusts joint statement of intent

Collaborative commitment from Southern NHS trusts to the adoption of GS1 standards and LocationManager

The introduction of the Scan4Safety programme in 2016 initiated widespread change in healthcare, and as the Scan4Safety programme manager at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, the programme's impact can be seen within our own trust operations.

However, this has not been an isolated task, and as regional chair of the GS1 UK Southern adoption group, we, the trusts listed here, have set a strategic objective to accelerate the implementation across our entire footprint.

The statement of intent

To do so, across each of the trusts, we have committed to amplifying the adoption of GS1 standards for the unique identification of people, products, and places for each NHS trust site. This will help us to deliver greater improvements to patient safety, reduce unwarranted clinical variation, and drive operational efficiencies as evidenced in the recently published [Scan4Safety report](#).

The premise of the GS1 UK Southern adoption group is to elevate the adoption of GS1 standards and Scan4Safety for all hospital trusts, so they too can reap the benefits within their own trusts, and most importantly, for their patients.

For the group, a critical part of the Scan4Safety journey centres on enabling electronic transactions via PEPPOL. That is why we need you, our suppliers, to use GS1 unique identifiers for your products and locations, which will help us make the purchase-to-pay process much more efficient.

Each of the NHS trust sites have a designated GS1 Global Location Number (GLN), so they can accurately be identified for order processing – details of which are held in [LocationManager](#), the central registry that can be accessed by all of our suppliers.

This helps suppliers confirm they have the correct shipping and billing details required for each transaction – and all in one place.

To make this process work at its best, and so you can be assigned your identifiers, we also need you to [become a GS1 member](#).

Once you have GS1 Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) for your products, and a GLN for your organisation, we can use this information to make sure that product orders are accurate, and that company details are up to date for purchase orders and invoices. This means fewer delivery, payment and invoice queries for all concerned.

Each trust is at a different stage in their Scan4Safety journey, but you can start to help them on their way by subscribing to LocationManager. You can find out more about LocationManager for suppliers [here](#).

On behalf of the GS1 UK Southern adoption group, we would like to take the opportunity to thank NHS suppliers for the efforts already made by adding GTINs to their products. We encourage more suppliers to start doing this, and others to increase the number of products with a GTIN. Doing this allows us to make product recalls faster, and product identification errors can be reduced on invoices and deliveries.

In combination, all of the above serves to enable traceability throughout the supply chain – from manufacturer to patient – collectively empowering us to provide better care for our patients.



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