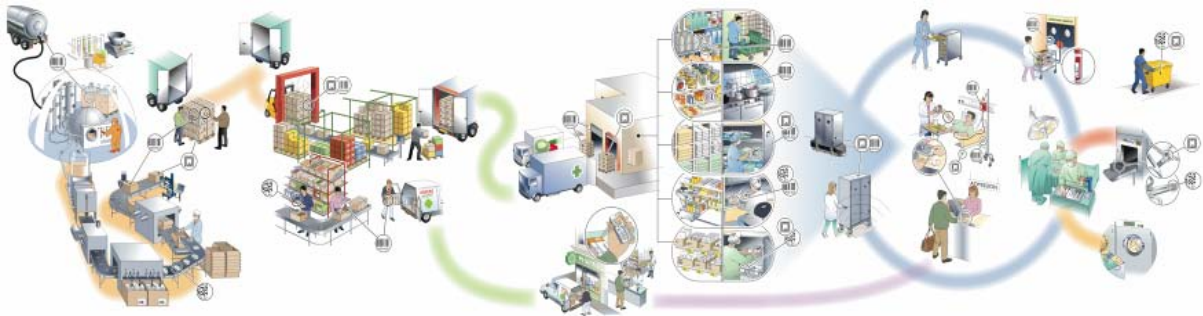


A vision for the health service in Sweden for use of the GS1 system



All parties in the supply chain, regardless of profession and organization, from manufacturer to patient, focus on giving the patient the best care possible with increased safety while reducing administrative costs. Using the same global standard in all countries, companies and organizations, health service actors can improve safety at each handover point and finally ensure that patients receive the product for the right purpose.

Reducing and, where possible, eliminating errors in patient care are a central goal for enhancing patient safety in Sweden. Technical support with automatic identification and data capture can help achieve this goal.

The health service sees good opportunities for improving patient safety and the efficiency of the health care supply chain by using GS1's global standards, the GS1 System, throughout the entire supply chain from producers to the patient. The health service vision is that the GS1 System is used wherever applicable.

Since the GS1 System is developed by users from many different countries and organizations it is also well established among health care actors at a global level and can therefore be used in regional and local context.

Each handover point is a security risk and without a global standard there is a high risk that proprietary systems and solutions are built that impede traceability and efficiency.

In order to enable effective processes for procurement, purchasing and logistics GS1 standards for basic data about items and packages should be used.

The use of standards opens up new ways of working and facilitates partnerships with external care providers and partners such as laboratories, service contractors and logistics companies, without being dependent on any party's internal systems. The standards also ensure scalability so that the health service can replace or acquire new players. This happens fairly often in public procurement.

The vision of using the GS1 system is that the health service should achieve the following effects in the future:

- the wrong use and administration of medication to patients can be reduced to nearly zero percent.
- the patient record system can capture the products used in various clinical settings to a patient.

- patients do not use counterfeit medicines or medical devices.
- the products used for patients can be traced to the original manufacturer and its production system.
- internal processes such as sterilization of instruments, hazardous waste management and handling and washing of clothes can be improved, while ensuring quality and follow-up.
- products that for some reason do not meet set quality requirements can be identified and withdrawn in an efficient manner.

Basic possibilities with the GS1 System

Validation: Unique identification and marking with bar codes/RFID makes it possible to verify the identity of an object, person or procedure and link this with the person giving the treatment.

Data capture: There are many situations where a serial number or reference number must be entered into the electronic patient record. By reading a barcode and automatically recording the information, the risk of manual keying errors is eliminated.

Care documentation: The health service spends considerable time on care documentation for each individual procedure. By verifying drug or other product at the patient (so-called "bedside scanning") the documentation can be structured and made searchable, while the total hours spent on care documentation, information retrieval, reading, revocations, etc., decreases.

Supply chain: The ability to track goods efficiently improves inventory control, so that the right materials are in the right place at the right time.

What does the vision mean for the patient?

Patients should be able to ask five basic rights of care:

- **right patient**
- **right product**
- **right route**
- **right dose/instrument**
- **right time**

By making the vision reality, safety in health care will be improved.

The health service is preparing to achieve the vision

To use the GS1 system, the health service needs to invest in equipment to read both linear bar codes and 2D codes. Future use of automatic data capture using RFID in accordance with GS1 standards is also in line with the health service vision of improving patient safety and efficiency.

When requesting tenders, county councils and other public health care providers are beginning to require unique identification of items and sometimes services. When tendering for IT systems, global identification and automatic data capture will be included in the technical specifications and requirements documents.

This vision was developed by the user group "identification, marking and classification", with participants from: Östergötland County Council, Region Skåne, Västra Götalands Region, Stockholm County Council, Karolinska University Hospital and Norrbotten County Council in collaboration with the County Councils of Uppsala, Dalarna, Västmanland, Örebro and Södermanland. Supplier representatives in the user group are Swedish Medtech, Cook Medical, Mölnlycke Healthcare, OneMed Sweden AB, and MediCarrier. The user group meets and comments on the implementation of GS1 standards in healthcare under the auspices of GS1 Sweden.