The Global Language of Business



National Product Catalogue for the Healthcare Industry

The National Product Catalogue (NPC) is the product data communication solution for Australian public and private healthcare institutions seeking to improve patient safety and achieve efficiency gains.

Designed as a whole-of-industry solution to support improvements and greater availability of data, NPC provides the single source of item master data for health institutions seeking to purchase medicines, medical devices and necessary healthcare items. The objective of the NPC is to ensure better data integrity throughout the Australian Healthcare Sector now and into the future.

The ability to store and share accurate, complete and up-to-date Healthcare product data between suppliers and delivery organisations is a critical, foundational component for Australia's transition to an electronic health system. This transition has been driven by the Australian Digital Health Agency [formerly the National E-Health Transition Authority (NEHTA)], on behalf of the commonwealth, state and territory health departments to standardise data to support the Healthcare Value Chain.

Key industry stakeholders have worked closely with GS1 Australia to develop and evolve the NPC within the framework of the Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN).

Why accurate product data is important in Healthcare

Health providers require product information from their suppliers to support procurement, purchasing, warehousing, distribution and patient/consumer facing systems.

Accurate product data is also essential for patient safety initiatives and clinical applications such as electronic prescribing, electronic dispensing, linking of actual products with classification systems, medicines terminology, and product barcode scanning at the patient bedside or in the operating theatre.



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Data Synchronisation via the NPC

Benefits of NPC in Healthcare - The Smart Way to Share Product Data

- A reduction in the misidentification of medications and medical products
- Reduced catalogue and data management costs
- Efficient identification and replacement of flawed, out-of-date or missing stock
- A foundation for product tracking and product recalls
- Improved product visibility
- Increased speed to market for new products
- A foundation for eMessaging initiatives such as NEHTA's eProcurement strategy
- A reduction in order and invoice error rates/invoice claims

Why NPC makes a difference

Sharing of healthcare product information in the past has been inconsistent in content, format and detail, requiring significant additional work to ensure data is available across the multiple and disconnected systems. The duplication of effort and necessary rework has proved costly, error-prone and inefficient.

Using NPC, suppliers and manufacturers can share information with their trading partners both in Australia and around the world, via a single common mechanism.

The NPC is estimated to save the sector over \$100 million per annum¹ by ensuring accurate, valid and up-to-date product data that enables improved communications and supply chain operational efficiencies. Information in the NPC is based on consistent global standards.

1 Healthcare Data Crunch report, GS1 Australia 2014

Key Steps for Trading Partners to use the NPC				
Key Steps		Recipient		
Full details of organisations receiving data via the NPC is available. Can be provided on supplier request.	Y			
Understand your industry data requirements by reviewing the data set https://www.gslau.org/npc/target-data-set/	Y	Y		
Gather other information you need: https://www.gs1au.org/download/gs1au-cookbook-npc-australia-ready-checklist-healthcare.pdf/file		Y		
Contact GS1 Australia for further information on 1300 227 263 or npc@gs1au.org		Y		
Register for National Product Catalogue: https://www.gs1au.org/our-services/national-product-catalogue/preform/		Y		
Prepare and develop an interface to receive and validate incoming data				
Determine and develop interface to receive and validate incoming data		Y		
Become 'NPC Ready' in line with your trading partner requirements by validating and publishing all required data				
Validate incoming data to synchronise with their suppliers to ensure all data is the same		Y		
Manage data quality on an ongoing basis utilising Data Quality insight reports	Y	Y		

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