

Background:

With the increased requirement for the sharing of digital assets within Australian healthcare, the decision was made in 2022 to clarify the way that these types of assets could be shared via the National Product Catalogue (NPC). This clarification ensures that suppliers and their trading partners can better utilise this channel to share their assets. The result of the discussions with industry stakeholders was to update the Healthcare dataset to encompass more asset types.

The digital asset types that are now readily supported for Australian Healthcare include a product image, product video, safety data sheets, and instructions for use (IFU), but additional file types are available. More can be added to the [global code list](#) and then used within Australian Healthcare as additional requirements are highlighted.

Details:

To enable the sharing of external resources, the NPC utilises defined data structures from within the Global Data Synchronisation standard - **Referenced File Type Code** combined with **Uniform Resource Identifier** and **File Effective Start Date**.

Referenced File Type Code – Is a code used to define the type of file being shared via the Uniform Resource Identifier (URI). Further detail can be found on the Online Data Dictionary [here](#) and there is a complete code listing for the Australian market available [here](#)

Example: A product image the Referenced File Type Code is 'PRODUCT_IMAGE'

Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) – is used to communicate the Uniform Resource Location (URL) that contains additional information. This information will generally automate redirection to a virtual location. When used in conjunction with the Reference File Type and File Effective Start Date within NPC (and GDSN) it enables specific files to be accessed and/or retrieved as they are updated. Where automation is added they may be retrieved and added into internal catalogues or other systems, of the links themselves can be made available to users to 'click through' on demand. Further detail can be found in the Online Data Dictionary [here](#)

Example: A product image the URL could be https://www.gs1.org/docs/images/09504002100016_A.jpg
This format includes the GTIN of the product in accordance with GS1 Product Image Sharing/Delivery Guideline however standard URL or Digital link formatted URI are acceptable.

File Effective Start Date Time – this field enables additional version control of documents that may change over time and can also prompt systems to replace existing digital files with new ones as they are superseded. Further detail can be found in the Online Data Dictionary [here](#)

Example: 2020-12-01T00:00:00

Implementation:

The capability for this type of digital asset file sharing has been available for many years for use within the sector and has been used for items such as Safety Data Sheets for some time. This means that the capability should already be available for those suppliers using either the native NPC Publisher Tool or a middleware or bureau service from a Certified Product Partner to manage their data synchronisation.

If you need assistance, please contact either your NPC partner (middleware or bureau) or the NPC Customer Support team on npccustomersupport@gs1au.org or call 1300 227 263, Option 4, 1, 2.

Note – if you are a supplier to a 'retail' organisation as well you may need to review the requirements that they have for digital asset sharing.