# GS1 UK high-level guide to standards required by systems with surgical-instrument tracking functionality

## Overview

In line with current drives to improve the consistency, flexibility, and interoperability of technology across health and social care, all systems developed in-house, commissioned, procured, or adopted should be "GS1 compliant" (as applicable).

The GS1 UK compliance specification for the NHS provides guidance for buyers and commissioners on what that really means, and how to ensure that new systems are GS1 compliant.

For systems that hold data for the processing, management or tracking of surgical instruments, there are specific GS1 identifiers and data carriers that the system should be able to utilise to be compliant. If providers are unable to provide GS1 compliant systems in accordance with the recommendations, then full interoperability and traceability will be impossible.

## Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is not to specify the capability or scope requirements for surgical-instrument tracking, but to provide hospital trusts with a high-level guide to the GS1 standards required to include in a tender specification.

For more detailed information on how GS1 standards should be adopted for surgical instrument tracking, refer to the GS1 UK HUG document GS1 standards for surgical instrument traceability.



**GS1 Traceability Standard**

# GS1 standards required by system

| Requirement | GS1 standard | System | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | Sterile services | Theatre |
| Patient identification | Global Service Relation Number (GSRN)* | | ✔ |
| Staff identification | Global Service Relation Number (GSRN)* | ✔ | ✔ |
| Place/party identification | Global Location Number (GLN)* | ✔ | ✔ |
| Product identification | Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)* | ✔ | ✔ |
| Asset identification | Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI)* | ✔ | ✔ |
| Print barcodes | GS1 DataMatrix | ✔ | ✔ |
| Print barcodes | GS1-128 | ✔ | ✔ |
| Read barcodes | GS1 DataMatrix | ✔ | ✔ |
| Read barcodes | GS1-128 | ✔ | ✔ |
| Read Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) | EPC/RFID | ✔ | ✔ |

*New and existing systems will need to utilise the appropriate GS1 Identification Key, as either a primary or secondary identifier, for the required data elements based on the functionality and purpose of the system being considered.

| | |
| --- | --- |
| ✔ | Required |
| ✔ | Considered |