



**NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STERIS DECLARES ITS GLN READINESS**

*Company is implementing location and product identification coding  
in anticipation of new global GS1 standards*

**MENTOR, OHIO – January 10, 2011** – STERIS Corporation, a leading global provider of advanced infection prevention and surgical solutions, has completed Phase 1 of its preparation for the implementation of GS1 global supply chain standards. By declaring its readiness, STERIS is informing its trading partners of the ability to transact business using the Global Location Number<sup>®</sup> (GLN<sup>®</sup>).

The healthcare industry is in the early stages of adopting GS1 Standards for accurate location and product identification, which provide the data infrastructure for patient safety advances such as bar coding. STERIS is well ahead of most companies preparing for the implementation of these codes. In fact, several of the largest healthcare purchasing organizations, including Novation LLC and the Premier healthcare alliance, have recognized STERIS for its preparation. In addition, the Company is participating in a Premier pilot program with other manufacturers and healthcare solution providers (*“Sunrise Ready”: Lessons from Premier’s Ongoing GLN Transaction Program-* <http://www.premierinc.com/about/news/11-jan/premier-gln-transaction-program-wave-2-lessons-learned.pdf>). The pilots allow organizations to document findings and lessons learned to help accelerate the implementation of GS1 standards.

“Bar-coding is a very important transformation occurring in our industry,” states Tim Chapman, senior vice president and group president of the Healthcare Group at STERIS. “The development and use of GS1 standards will improve patient safety, reduce avoidable supply chain costs and advance collaborative supply chain performance initiatives. By working with our colleagues now and addressing issues early, we will be fully prepared for these changes and will be able to help optimize the supply chain for our customers.”

GS1 ([www.gs1.org](http://www.gs1.org)) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards. GS1 standards are already used by millions of companies in many sectors including healthcare, transportation and logistics, aeronautics, defense, chemicals, advanced technology and the retail supply chain. GS1 Healthcare includes a voluntary global user community that brings together healthcare stakeholders such as manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and others.

The GS1 standardized information system consists of three primary elements:

1. The GLN is a 13-digit standardized number that can be used to identify headquarters locations, branches, shipping points and individual departments. All of these can be maintained and accessed online in the GLN Registry for Healthcare<sup>®</sup>. The U.S. healthcare industry has declared the GLN sunrise date as December 2010.
2. The Global Trade Item Number<sup>®</sup> (GTIN<sup>®</sup>) is used for the unique identification of trade items worldwide at various packaging levels. GTINs may be 8, 12, 13 or 14 digits in length. In the familiar UPC system, the GTIN is the 12-digit number at the bottom of the bar code. Without the GTIN, product identifiers are changed to suit the needs of different trading partners, resulting in transaction errors and requiring inefficient workarounds to compensate. The declared GTIN sunrise for the U.S. healthcare industry is December 2012.
3. The Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) enables standardized, validated product data to be exchanged between trading partners. It consists of a GS1 Global Registry that connects to numerous interoperable data pools around the world. The network allows for one single point of entry so that trading partners only need to join one certified data pool, anywhere in the world, to communicate with any other trading partner in the GDSN. Today, GDSN is used by manufacturers, distributors, hospitals and retailers around the world to interact with information about more than 15,000 companies and 2 million products.

STERIS is continuing to move forward in the direction of adopting GS1 standards by initiating its Phase II global trade item number (GTIN) project, which will enable the Company

to implement GTINs. STERIS will actively collaborate with trading partners during the Phase II project and will seek opportunities to participate in additional pilot studies.

“Once the STERIS GS1 initiative is completed, Customers and industry partners will see changes to STERIS systems, labels, shipping documents, invoices and product literature,” says Chapman. “However, the most important benefit to healthcare providers will be that they can expect to see significant improvements in getting the right products to the right places, at the right times.”

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**Editor’s Note:** For additional STERIS information, please contact Robin Baum: [robin\\_baum@steris.com](mailto:robin_baum@steris.com). For information on GS1 in the United States, please visit [www.gs1us.org](http://www.gs1us.org).

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