

## Standard identifiers on human primary packages in the Nordics

### Aim: ensure patient safety

Patient safety has been the key factor when better routines for medicine dispensing and storage have been developed in the hospitals. New medicine cabinets, robots and IT-solutions for patient records demand accurate and up to date information about medication.

The Falsified Medicines Directive requires a standardized identifying on the *secondary* packages but adding identifiers on the *primary* packages has been optional.

However, the single packages also need to be identified to fulfill the present medication safety and requirements, like CLMA (Closed Loop Medication Administration) in the hospitals.

### What products are concerned?

Hospitals have expressed the need for primary package identifiers in all, but especially in the following categories of medicines:

- [High-Alert Medications](#) , products that need to be prepared on the ward and taken out from the secondary package before preparing
- Pre-filled pens and syringes containing single doses,
- Medicated plasters as well as separate unit doses, dosing devices.

### Why has the [recommendation guideline](#) been prepared and where is it?

As many medicines sold in the Nordics have common Nordic packages, the need for common guidelines is obvious. To avoid extra work within the supply chain, it is important to use standardized identifying. The recommendation is to use the [GS1 standards](#) in the Nordic countries. The guideline, prepared by the Pharmaceutical Information Center and verified by all Nordic countries and GS1 Finland, is found and updated in [VnrWiki](#).

### When should the primary packages have standard identifiers?

Please note that the document is a [recommendation](#) and therefore there are no official implementation time limits. However, the need in the hospitals is constant daily. It is important to start at least preparing for this need.

### Want to know more?

More information on the needs of the hospital pharmacies or Closed Loop Medication Administration (CLMA), please contact your local contact

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[Medicines identification requirements on primary level packaging using GS1 standards](#)  
[EAHP - Bar coding medicines to the single unit](#)  
[VnrWiki - Information regarding product codes](#)