



The road from NTIN to GTIN

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LIF Sweden – recommendation

“From a patient safety perspective, it is important to be able to uniquely and easily identify an article and its packages.

Therefore, it is LIF’s recommendation to make a transition from NTIN to GTIN.”

- Written information to all stakeholders and companies
- Presentations in different parts of Sweden

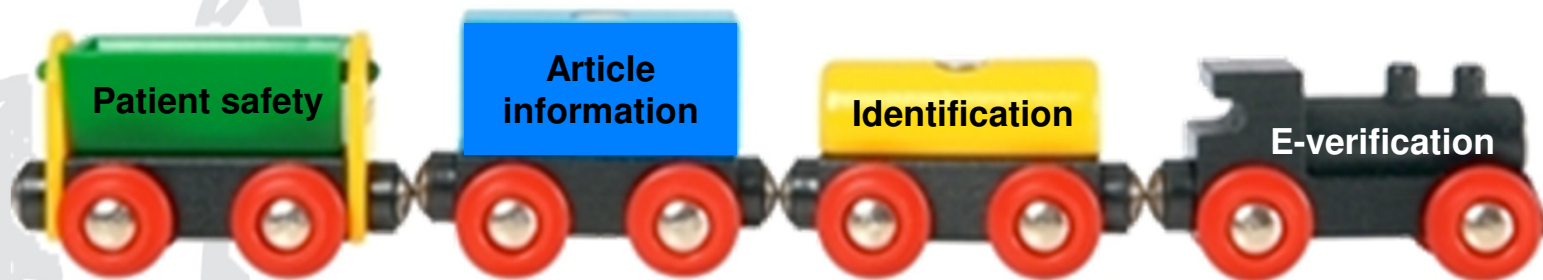
Why?

- Re-regulation of the pharmacy market in Sweden
 - Review of the national product and article register
 - Discovered articles with non-unique identities, as well as other inconsistencies
 - Patient safety issue and logistics problems



E-verification – “the train”

- Requires unique identities – time plan is set
- Provides an opportunity to implement unique identifications for increased patient safety
 - article identification, logistics, statistics, article information

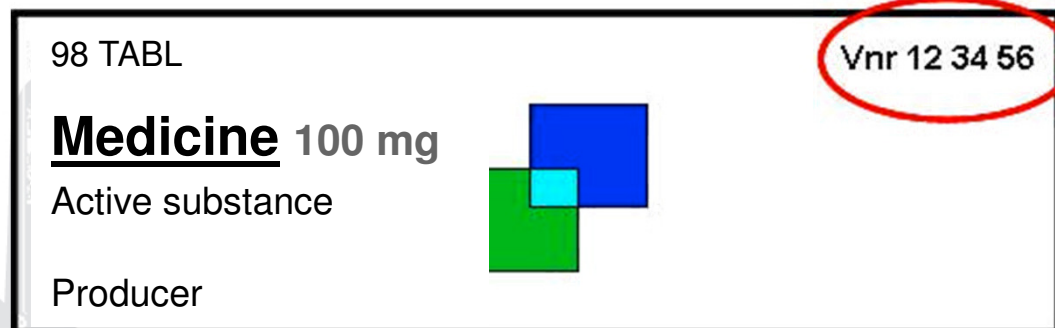


Unique identification – benefitting all

- Patients
 - Patient safety
- Customers
 - Pharmacies – e.g. distribution and article information
 - Health care – e.g. prescription and bedside scanning
- Pharmaceutical companies
 - Nordic market – common Nordic packages
 - Logistics
 - Statistics

Nordic article number, Vnr

- Launched 1977 for all pharmaceuticals in the Nordic countries
- Unique per article / package (1 article = 1 package)
- Possible to manage five small markets as one large
 - the same package in several countries
 - less administration and lower costs



NTIN – Nordic/National Trade Item Number

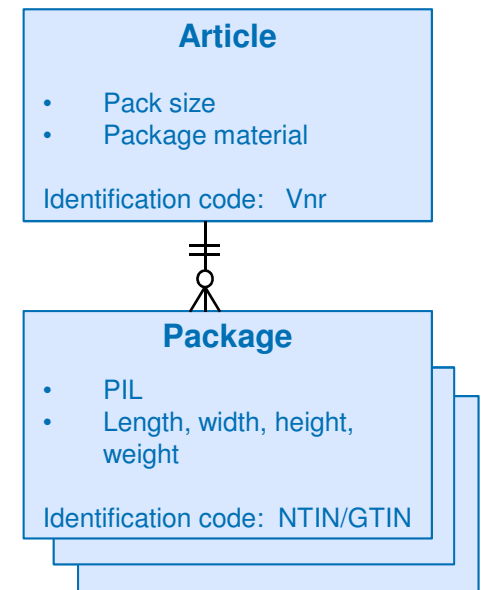
- Early 1980's – barcode on all pharmaceutical packages
- Used instead of GTIN for pharmaceuticals in the Nordic countries
- The same format as GTIN, but with a fixed prefix, and a Vnr instead of an item reference number

prefix of Nordic Number Centre (704626) + Vnr + check digit



The pharmaceutical market has changed

- Different interpretation of Vnr guidelines
- 1 article = 1 package is no longer valid
- Patient information leaflet (PIL) can differ between countries
 - Different languages
 - Different information
- Packages of an article can have different
 - measures
 - external appearance
 - content – different composition, e.g. colouring substance (parallel import)



NTIN is the problem

- All packages of an article have the same NTIN, since there is only one NTIN per Vnr
- Impossible to uniquely identify the different packages of an article with Vnr and NTIN

Country	Vnr	NTIN
Denmark	12 34 56	7046261234569
Norway	12 34 56	7046261234569
Sweden	12 34 56	7046261234569

} The same

GTIN is the solution

- The different packages of an article should have different GTINs according to the guidelines of GTIN
- Unique identification per package

Country	Vnr	NTIN	GTIN
Denmark	12 34 56	7046261234569	9999123123111
Norway	12 34 56	7046261234569	9999234234222
Sweden	12 34 56	7046261234569	9999345345333

} Different

What we have done

- Identify problem, find solution and agree on time plan
- Company poll – use of Vnr and NTIN handled differently
- National stakeholders
 - Different views and solutions
 - Discussions and agreements
- Nordic discussions
 - Regulatory differences between countries
 - Different problems – different solutions
 - Discussions and agreements
- LIF Task Force

Now – planning the transition

- Check conditions regarding NTIN/GTIN within the company
- Investigate what the transition from NTIN to GTIN would entail
- Decide when and how the transition should be implemented
- It may be advantageous to carry out the transition in the early stages

When?

... no later than the entry into force of the EU directive on falsified medicines, planned for the beginning of 2018.

- Natural end date – e-verification requires unique NTIN/GTIN
- Time of implementation will differ depending on the prerequisites of the companies
- Transition has started (mainly OTC)
 - Finland and Sweden 10 %, Denmark 5 %, Norway 4 %

Learnings

- Be persistent and co-ordinated
- Do not underestimate the time factor
- Flexible implementation
 - Fast, incremental or late
- Find benefits for the stakeholders
 - Patient Safety
 - Better logistics
 - Better statistics
 - A robust system bringing order to the present unclear system

Summary

Why?

- Transition from NTIN to GTIN increases patient safety
- E-verification requires unique NTIN/GTIN

How?

- Same format of NTIN and GTIN – technically possible to change

When?

- Completed when e-verification is implemented (early 2018)
- The prerequisites are different
 - The transition can therefore be done now, incrementally, or in conjunction with the implementation of e-verification

Thank you for
your attention!

