

Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)

Understanding GLN requirements

One critical component of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) is the requirement for the industry to use an international standard of tracking products throughout the supply chain. A Global Location Number (GLN) is required for all our customers to comply with the standard, defined by GS1. Cencora customers, regardless of size or class of trade, will need a GLN to transact business with Cencora or any other distributor.

What is a GLN?

Powered by GS1 Standards, the Global Location Number (GLN) provides businesses the ability to know who is involved in transactions and where things are located throughout the supply chain. By uniquely identifying parties and locations, the GLN helps with tracking products, optimizing processes, and providing greater visibility to shipments moving through the supply chain.

Why is a GLN important?

DSCSA requires the use of international standards as defined by GS1. The GLN (Global Location Number) identifies unique locations by assigning a unique 13-digit numeric code to each location.

- We cannot send information on the product without the standardized GLN for identification.
- We cannot complete the EPCIS file (Data file that contains serialized product shipment details for DSCSA covered items and represents transfer of ownership of materials included in the shipment) for your order without it. The purchase order will be marked incomplete without a GLN on file.
- Without a GLN, you will be out of compliance with the DSCSA federal regulation and we will not be able to transact business with you.

Who is required to have a GLN?

This GLN requirement is for all customers within the supply chain, regardless of where product is purchased. Every location that receives or dispenses product from any distributor will require a GLN. This includes secondary accounts that do business with us and all customers regardless of size.

How do you obtain a GLN?

We have been reviewing all GLNs that are already enumerated through GS1 and updated your accounts within our database to reflect this information. To ensure the continuity of shipments once DSCSA goes into effect in November, Cencora and other distributors have purchased a group license through GS1, which enables us to apply a Global Location Number (GLN) for those who do not currently have a GLN or are unsure if they have a GLN.

What do you need to do if you do not have a GLN?

If you do not have a GLN or are unsure if you have one, we have provided one for you. While there is no need for you to take any action at this time, it is still important to understand the purpose of a GLN.

Do you already have a GLN?

If you have your GLN information or obtain a GLN on your own, please send an email to SecureSupplyChain@amerisourcebergen.com and CC your sales rep with the following details:

- Account name
- Account number
- Account address
- GLN number
- DEA # (if available)

Will the Cencora name change impact my GLN number if purchased on my behalf?

AmerisourceBergen purchased GLN codes prior to its name change to Cencora. We will be transferring our GS1 identifier to Cencora. Your GLN number will not change because of our name change. The GS1 prefix associated with AmerisourceBergen won't change when we transfer to Cencora.

Does DSCSA apply to 340B pharmacies and if so, does the contract pharmacy need to have a GLN or the Covered Entity?

Yes, DSCSA applies to 340B pharmacies. That means if a contract pharmacy is being shipped to or is selling products, they will be required to have a GLN. All shipped to and sold to locations are required to have a GLN.

What do I do if I have a general question or update to my account?

Please email SecureSupplyChain@amerisourcebergen.com and our team will work with you to answer any questions or account updates you may have.

What do you do if you have a question or concern on updating a GLN through GS1?

If you need assistance finding your GLN or GLN account related questions, please reach out to gs1usdscsa@gs1us.org and the GS1 team will work with you to answer any questions you may have.

If an account changes ownership, is there a requirement to get a new GLN or can you transfer the GLN associated with the address to its new owner?

The account owner of the GLN in GS1's database can request that the GLN ownership be transferred to the new GLN owner. You can also email GS1 at gs1usdscsa@gs1us.org and request that the ownership be transferred.

Do any products purchased from Cencora require each pharmacy location to have a GLN?

DSCSA requires any physical location that can receive shipment of product to have a GLN. The GLN is a unique identifier that will allow the FDA and state agencies to run tracing requests and be able to track specific serial numbers in the U.S. supply chain.

Who is creating/maintaining GLN numbers?

GS1 enumerates all GLNs throughout the supply chain. We are reviewing all GLNs that have been enumerated through GS1 and updating accounts accordingly. For those who do not already have a GLN, we will be assigning you a GLN by November 2024. This process extends across all our customers regardless of size or class of trade.

How do customers request GLNs for locations that AB doesn't service?

We will be providing GLNs to all billed to and shipped to locations of customers we service. If you are interested in acquiring a GLN for locations serviced by other wholesalers can work directly with that wholesaler or obtain a GLN through GS1.

If I order from both wholesale and SmartSource, will I need multiple GLN numbers?

A GLN is assigned to each unique address. If you have a wholesale account and a SmartSource account listed at the same address, you will only need one GLN.

If have a WAC, GPO, and 340B account tied to the same physical location, does each account require a GLN?

Since they are all the same physical location, all three accounts will be tied to the same GLN.

Is there a charge for obtaining a GLN?

We do not charge a fee for obtaining a GLN for our customers. GS1 does charge a fee if they work to get a GLN on their own.

If you originate the GLN on my behalf and you own the GLN as the parent entity, what happens if I am no longer affiliated with Cencora?

You can request that we transfer the ownership of the GLN to another parent GLN.

Is the GLN taking the place of the HIN (Health Industry Number) on my account?

No, the GLN does not replace the Health Industry Number.

If a specialty practice name is on the ship to address but the base address is identical, do we need 2 separate GLNs? i.e. is 130 Cedar Rd the same as 130 Cedar Rd Urology?

The practice name shouldn't drive anything. If the ship to address is the same, it should be assigned a single GLN.

Will you be able to track all of my purchases even from other vendors if my GLN was provided by you?

We will only have record of the shipments that come from our distribution centers no matter who owns a GLN. However, if you prefer to enumerate your own GLN, be sure to provide us with that GLN so we can ensure it is on file with your account.

Are we assigning GLNS to all accounts, even those that use as a secondary wholesaler?

The first phase of the GLN process is to identify if there is an existing GLN already assigned to your physical location in the GS1 DataHub. This applies to both primary and secondary accounts. If we are unable to find an existing GLN, we will work with GS1 to get one assigned in order to be in compliance.

If I change my address, thus meaning the GLN would be different since the physical location changed, am I blocked from ordering until we populate their GLN?

If you move locations and don't get a GLN on your own for your new address, please notify us of your new address so our team can work to provide you a GLN for your new location. If we assist you in obtaining a new GLN for a new address, we will inactivate the old one and update our records. We will ensure you are not blocked from ordering and there is no disruption to the supply chain while the new address GLN is being enumerated.

What do you do if you have a general question or update my Cencora account?

Please email SecureSupplyChain@amerisourcebergen.com and our team will work with you to answer any questions or account updates you may have.

How will GLN maintenance be managed if I change locations or add a practice?

Regardless if you obtained your own GLN or we enumerated one on your behalf, the address tied to that GLN can be updated through the GS1 database. The GLN will be able to follow you or your new practice wherever you go.

If a practice changes ownership but address remains the same, can the same GLN number be used?

If the ship to address is the same, it should be assigned a single GLN.

If I am a new customer, how will GLNs be handled?

There is a GLN field within our workspace onboarding guide. If you already have a GLN and knows what it is, you can enter it in the workspace workflow. If you don't have one or don't know you have one, we will enumerate a GLN on your behalf.

After DSCSA goes into effect, if you move to us from an existing wholesaler, you should already have a GLN assigned per DSCSA requirements. If you do not have a GLN or do not know what it is, we can search the GS1 database to assist you. If you are a brand-new customer, we will work with you to get a GLN assigned to your location(s).

How is the industry handling duplicate GLNs?

Led by GS1, an industry-wide GLN cleanup is underway to reconcile and remove duplicate GLNs that were created throughout the industry in error over the last year. Cencora is actively involved in the cleanup and are adjusting the GLNs within our master data as needed. As we work through this cleanup process, any changes to your GLN will be reflected in ABC Order.

Additional resources

[GS1 GLN information](#)
[GS1 GLN Quick Start Guide](#)