SMARTER DEVICE MANAGEMENT THROUGH STANDARDISED NOMENCLATURE

A GLOBALLY TRUSTED DEVICE NOMENCLATURE SUPPORTING PROCUREMENT, TRACEABILITY AND CLINICAL OUTCOMES.

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The Problem

Hospitals and health systems manage thousands of devices, but without a shared naming standard, procurement, traceability and clinical data are built on inconsistent foundations.

5 million+ medical device types registered globally

Millions of manufacturer descriptions

Procurement teams must manually match equivalent products

70%

of all medical technologies are purchased through procurement
- MedTech Europe

1 device

can have dozens of different names across suppliers, systems and sites

WITHOUT STANDARDISED NOMENCLATURE

- **No common language** means the same device is catalogued differently across suppliers, systems and sites
- **Procurement inefficiency** when equivalent products cannot be identified, compared or substituted reliably
- **Recall blind spots** when affected devices are listed under different names in different systems
- **Poor clinical data quality** when devices recorded inconsistently cannot support outcomes research or benchmarking

Without standardised nomenclature, hospitals cannot reliably identify, compare or track equivalent devices across systems.

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The Solution: One Term. One Device Type.

GMDN is a flat listing of 25,000+ mutually exclusive generic device descriptors. One GMDN Term per device type, regardless of manufacturer, brand name or country of origin.

25,000+ medical device Terms — one per device type

Each Term has a unique 5-digit GMDN Code and a name and a definition

Terms sit within a multi-level category hierarchy of 2,600+ categories

153
countries with GMDN members

1 GMDN Term
covers all equivalent devices from all manufacturers globally

GMDN AT A GLANCE

- **5M+** medical device identifier records registered within UDI databases.
- **13,000+ GMDN** members across 153 countries
- **107** countries with regulators registered or using GMDN in some regulatory capacity
- **Updated in real-time** to keep pace with device innovation. Terms added as new device types emerge

GMDN is a shared language that enables hospitals, healthcare providers, regulators, manufacturers and other stakeholders to communicate clearly and consistently about medical devices.

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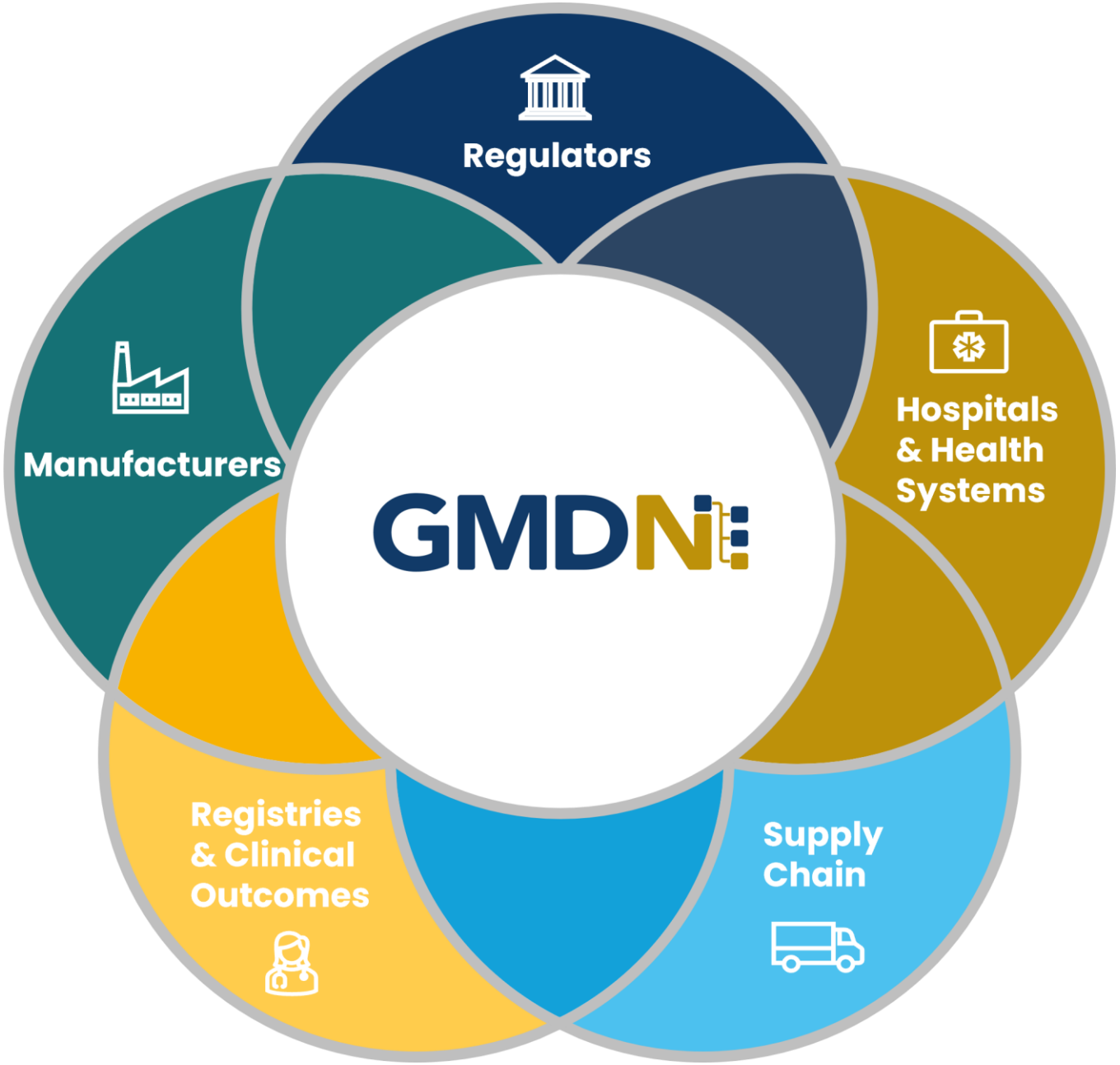

The Same Code. Across the Entire Ecosystem.

Once a GMDN Code enters a registration system, it doesn't stay there. The same GMDN Term travels through procurement, clinical use, post-market surveillance, inventory management and registries, connecting data that was previously siloed.

One Product, One Term - Only assign a single Term to your product. All GMDN Terms are mutually exclusive. Multipurpose devices should be assigned to a Term describing a multipurpose device. Kits should be assigned to the appropriate kit Term. For implants, a set containing the implant is typically covered by the Term describing the implant. The definitions will indicate this.

Accurate Product Representation – Make sure the GMDN Term name and definition accurately represent your device. If key intended uses of your device are not mentioned in the definition, it may not be the appropriate Term.

Be Component Specific – A component of a system should be assigned to a Term that describes that component, not assigned to the Term for the overall system. Likewise, a component/accessory of a parent device should be assigned to a Term that describes that component/accessory, not assigned to the Term for the Parent device.

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GMDN Data Structure

Traditional device catalogues rely on supplier-defined names, which are inconsistent, hard to compare, and impossible to search across systems. GMDN takes a different approach: functional definitions that travel with the device, not the supplier.

GMDN CATEGORIES multi-hierarchical grouping 2,626 Categories

- Device Function
  - Tissue reparation devices CT1007
    - Stents CT2090
      - Vascular Stents CT485
        - Coronary artery stents CT1102

Example path shown – Categories at 5 levels

…and many more Categories for other device types

GMDN Terms flat listing of Terms 25,454 Terms

Antibody-coated-metal coronary artery stent	47826
Bare metal coronary artery stent	53616
Bioabsorbable coronary artery stent	61535
Drug-coated-metal coronary artery stent	62301
Drug-eluting coronary artery stent, antibody-coated	58760
Drug-eluting coronary artery stent, carbon-coated	56285

25,000+
GMDN Terms

5M+
Devices with GMDN in UDI Databases

107
Countries using GMDN in a regulatory capacity

One device type = One GMDN Term
Regardless of manufacturer, brand name or country of origin giving hospitals a single source of truth

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Value For Hospitals & Healthcare Systems

Whether managing procurement across a hospital group, benchmarking device spend or improving clinical traceability, GMDN provides a single, internationally recognised device language. One that suppliers already use and regulators already mandate.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS USING GMDN

United Kingdom — Active
GMDN is an NHS Supply Chain recognised standard for procurement across the NHS

United States — Active
STRATA, USA uses GMDN for market analysis and procurement intelligence across heath systems

South Africa — Active
Discovery Heath uses GMDN for device traceability and safety monitoring

Gulf Health Council — Active
GHC Joint Procurement Portal uses GMDN for tendering, inventory optimisation

RECOGNITION AND STANDARDS

Global adoption — Regulatory requirement
GMDN is mandated by the world's major regulators — FDA, MHRA, TGA and ANVISA — meaning the manufacturers supplying your hospital are already required to assign GMDN codes to their devices. This is not a new data collection exercise. The data already exists in the supply chain.
Connecting your procurement and inventory systems to GMDN gives you immediate access to a standardised, internationally recognised device catalogue — without asking suppliers to do anything new.

NHS Supply Chain data standard — NHS
GMDN is a recognised within the NHS Supply Chain framework — and will be embedded in the Product Information Management (PIM) system for use across NHS trusts. Hospitals operating within the NHS already have a direct pathway to GMDN-coded device data through existing supply chain infrastructure.

Procurement efficiency
Compare equivalent devices across suppliers using a common device language, enabling better tendering, benchmarking and cost control.

Device traceability
Link every device in your inventory to a single GMDN code, regardless of brand name or supplier — supporting recall response and patient safety.

Clinical data quality
Devices recorded with GMDN codes connect procurement data to clinical outcomes, enabling meaningful analysis and post-market surveillance.

Market intelligence
Understand what equivalent devices cost and how they perform across health systems — supporting value-based procurement decisions.

GMDN is not a new system to implement. Your suppliers already assign GMDN Codes to comply with regulatory requirements. The data exists — GMDN gives your systems the ability to use it.

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A Standard In Motion

GMDN adoption is not a future aspiration, but an accelerating reality. The world's major healthcare systems, supply chain systems and device registries have independently converged on the same device language.

107
Countries with regulators registered and using GMDN

153
countries with GMDN members

25,000+
mutually exclusive terms – updated daily to keep up with innovation

5M+
UDI database entries with a GMDN code assigned

RECOGNISED BY NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

WHO MeDevIS — WHO

One of only two nomenclature systems selected for WHO's first global open-access medical device platform — covering 2,301 device types. Used by governments and health systems worldwide to identify and compare devices.

UK NHS recognised standard — NHS

The GMDN is recognised as a data standard by the UK's NHS Supply Chain – the largest single public health procurement group.

SNOMED CT — SNOMED

GMDN forms the foundation of the medical device component of SNOMED CT — the world's leading clinical terminology — directly linking device procurement data to clinical records across global health systems.

ADOPTION TRAJECTORY

2014	**FDA GUDID launched with GMDN as mandatory field** First major national UDI database – set a global template
2021	**Brazil RDC 591/2021 enacted** GMDN mandated as core field in ANVISA's national UDI framework
2024	**WHO MeDevIS publicly launched** GMDN embedded in WHO's first global device information platform
2025	**TGA AusUDID goes live** Australia's UDI framework active; GMDN mandated nomenclature
2025	**Brazil SIUD launches — Class IV mandatory** First enforcement deadline; all remaining classes follow by 2028
2026 onwards	**Australia, UK — further mandates activating** AusUDID Class III/IIb compliance Jul 2026; MHRA framework expanding

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Next Steps

Three straightforward actions to start using GMDN in your hospital or healthcare system

1

Request a GMDN Demo

See how GMDN integrates with procurement and inventory systems. Our team will walk you through the database, search tools and how other hospitals are using GMDN today.

→ **gmdnagency.org/register**

2

Integrate GMDN into Your Systems

Work with our team to map GMDN codes into your procurement platform, inventory management system. We provide data exports, API access and technical guidance at no additional cost.

→ **admin@gmdnagency.org**

3

Connect with the GMDN Team

Whether you're at the start of your GMDN journey or looking to deepen an existing integration, our team works directly with hospitals and health systems. Get in touch to discuss your specific use case.

→ **communications@gmdnagency.org**

GMDN

Ready to talk? communications@gmdnagency.org | gmdnagency.org

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