April [X], 2020

To: [insert donor name]  
 [insert donor contact]

[insert donor address]

From: Ministry of Health, Malawi

# Sharing GS1 based Item Master Data along with GTINs

One of the key objectives of the Ministry of Health is to ensure the safety, quality and efficacy of health commodities while eliminating counterfeit pharmaceutical products from health supply chain. Traceability of health commodities is a critical step in achieving these objectives. In order to effectively trace health commodities, all the way from manufacturer to end consumers, the Ministry of Health needs access to standardized and accurate item master data.

Item Master Data include health products’ Global Trade Item Numbers, which uniquely identifies products across the entire supply chain, and other attributes that define the product distinctively. As the Ministry of Health adopts GS1 standards to manage health supply chain within Malawi, accessibility to GS1 based item master data is a critical first step. Standardized GS1 based item master data will,

* Help us improve operational efficiency, data quality and accuracy by being able to leverage GS1 barcodes on commodity packages
* Enable our in-country systems to interoperate with each other and with global platforms to share standardized data in a timely manner thus improving overall supply chain efficiency
* Ensure safety, quality and efficacy of health commodities by enabling commodity traceability

In support of these objectives, the Ministry of Health seeks your organization’s support in providing us GS1 based item master data, at a minimum for those attributes listed in Attachment 1, for all commodities supplied by your organization to Malawi. This data can be shared in a spreadsheet through email to *<email address>*.

Signature

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| By:  Name:  Title:  Date: |  |

Attachment 1: Gs1 Item Master Data Attributes

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| **Category** | **Attributes** | **Example** |
| GENERAL ITEM INFORMATION | Item Id (gtin) | 5410013107231 |
| Hierarchy level (tradeItemUnitDescriptorCode) | *BASE\_UNIT\_OR\_EACH* |
| Brand Name (brandName) | Healthchoice |
| Functional Name (functionalName) | Self-care medicin |
| Country Of Origin (placeOfProductActivity/countryOfOrigin/countryCode) | *528 (Netherlands)* |
| PRODUCT DESCRIPTION INFORMATION | Product Description  (tradeItemDescription) | Healthchoice Classic 3pc Hip Replacement kit 200 mm |
|  | Manufacturer GLN (manufacturerOfTradeItem/gln) | 8712345012502 |
| Manufacturer Name (manufacturerOfTradeItem/partyName) | Health choice B.V. |
| PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION | Dosage Form (dosageFormTypeCodeReference) | Tablet |
| Route of Administration Description (enumerationValueDescription) | Oral |
| HIERARCHY | Child Item  (gTIN (child) (nextLowerLevelTradeItemInformation) | 8799999999995 |
| Total Quantity of Next Lower Level Trade Item (totalQuantityOfNextLowerLevelTradeItem) | 100 |
| SHELF LIFE | Shelf Life from Production (minimumTradeItemLifespanFromTimeOfProduction) | 720 |