

# DECODING BARCODING REQUIREMENTS FOR PHARMACISTS UNDER DSCSA

## *Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)*

First enacted in 2013 to combat drug counterfeiting, the DSCA is a comprehensive regulatory framework identification, tracking, and tracing medications as they move through the US supply chain. The DSCSA requirements have been enacted in stages over the last 10 years, with the final stage effective in November 2023.



2804 N. Bolton Avenue  
Alexandria, LA 71303  
866-640-3603

# What is the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)?



Key to the tracking and tracing mandates, is the bar coded Product Identifier (PI), which must contain certain drug data in a specifically constructed code and bar code.

# Barcode Requirements of DSCSA

- Barcode Symbology is Data Matrix
  - Two-dimensional (2D) Barcode
  - Can store up to 2,335 alphanumeric characters
- Data Fields Included within **DSCSA** Barcode
  - 1) Global Trade Item Number (**GTIN**)
  - 2) Serial Number (**SN**)
  - 3) Manufacturer's Expiration Date
  - 4) Manufacturer's Lot Number
  - 5) Four (4) Application Identifiers (**AI**)
    - AI consists of a 2-Digit Number Code (highlighted below)



Scanned Barcode Example (See Next Page for Breakdown)

**01**00312345678906**21**12345678**17**180630**10**ABC123

# Example

- Bar Code Scanned:

- Printed Bar Code Data (Scan to Notepad):

010037071011311721302000650732051721113010Z905812

- Sectioned: (01) 00370710113117 (21) 30200065073205 (17) 211130 (10) Z905812

- Notes

- Sections can be in alternate orders, but GTIN is almost always first
- GTIN and Expiration Date character counts are a set length



## BREAKDOWN

### GTIN (Always 14 Numbers)

AI Prefix Code: 01

00370710113117

NDC = 7071011311

### Serial Number (1-20 Alphanumeric Characters)

AI Prefix Code: 21

30200065073205

### Expiration Date (Always 6 Numbers = YYMMDD)

AI Prefix Code: 17

211130 = 11/30/2021 = November 30th 2021

### Lot Number (1-20 Alphanumeric Characters)

AI Prefix Code: 10

Z905812

# Want to Learn More?



The DSCSA is a federal law that was enacted in 2013 with the aim of improving the security of the drug supply chain. The law requires pharmaceutical companies, wholesale distributors, dispensers, and repackagers to implement new measures to ensure the safety and efficacy of medications. The law has been implemented in several stages, with the most recent deadline for compliance being November 27, 2023. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-supply-chain-security-act-dscsa/drug-supply-chain-security-act-law-and-policies>