

eDC Gold FAQs

Smarter Stock Management



Overview

What is eDC Gold?

eDC Gold is an inventory management solution that can give you improved control and greater visibility of your high value supply chain items.

What does eDC stand for?

eDC stands for Electronic Demand Capture.

How does it differ to the existing eDC system?

eDC Gold is an extension to the current eDC system. Both applications can be managed using the same hand-held PDA device. The distinction is that eDC is designed to manage low value and consumable products, whilst eDC Gold is manages high value and critical care products.

eDC Gold also has the capacity to provide enriched management data and greater visibility through the capture of batch and serial references and product expiry dates.

What does it cost?

The eDC Gold System is offered free of charge from NHS Supply Chain.

Depending on the existing interfaces in place between eDC and the trust there may be a requirement to develop catalogue and order interfaces to enable catalogue updates and order transmissions to pass from eDC Gold to the trust systems and vice versa. You will need to contact your system providers to discuss this.



Benefits and trust requirements

How would we benefit?

There are many potential benefits to using eDC Gold which provide cash releasing savings as well as service and time efficiencies;

- Reduced expenditure due to ordering of items based on actual consumption, with orders being generated based on clinical need.
- Chances of waste due to expiry is minimised due to visibility of expiry dates.
- Improved product availability as more accurate management data is used to drive the quantities needed to be supplied.
- Greater visibility and control of your stock allows for inventories to be effectively maintained by driving down stock levels (payment holiday) and helping to mitigate the potential for expired products.
- Enriched management data available to aid in decision making as well as having electronic transactional data allowing product movements to be tracked managed.
- Can provide supporting information for trusts looking at patient level costing.

All of the above are examples of potential benefits available via eDC Gold and are not guaranteed. NHS Supply Chain will work alongside the trust to help support you in achieving the maximum possible benefits and savings from implementing the system.

For a full list of benefits, please see www.supplychain.nhs.uk/edcGoldDatashheet.

Will it mean more work for our staff?

Operating an inventory management system requires a number of key activities to be undertaken to maintain inventory accuracy and to maximise the benefits available to the trust. Some of the key features of eDC Gold such as use of barcode technology, automatic re-ordering and tracking of batch/expiry details will make processes more efficient and as a result require less resource. However this may be off-set by the greater quality control activity introduced as part of the implementation, that may not have previously been in place.

As part of an implementation NHS Supply Chain will work with the trust and outline the resource requirements required to operate the system efficiently and effectively.



Benefits and trust requirements

Are we ready for eDC Gold?

Prior to any eDC Gold implementation, NHS Supply Chain will carry out a risk assessment at each hospital site. The aim of this assessment is to determine the capability of the trust to effectively manage an inventory management solution.

Managing an inventory system sustainably and effectively requires discipline and supporting resources. The assessment focuses on operational factors that highlight any risks that could affect either a successful implementation, and/or prevent effective on-going management. The output of the assessment will be either a recommendation to proceed, or not to proceed, with an implementation.

What happens if we're not ready yet?

If the risk assessment indicates that your trust is not yet in a position to implement eDC Gold successfully then we will provide guidance on areas for improvement. Once the trust has addressed the areas of concern we will revisit the trust to perform a follow up risk assessment.

Can eDC Gold track to a patient level?

eDC Gold can be used to issue products to a maximum of up to three recipients of which one of these can be the patient. We do not hold any patient identifiable information within our systems and as such this would have to be a reference number of some description which can be scanned from a patient wristband or notes.

This option will depend on specific trust ability and set up criteria.



Implementation and deployment

How is eDC Gold Implemented?

You will be assigned a dedicated NHS Supply Chain team member to help you implement eDC Gold. The implementation uses a phased approach based on standard project management methodology.

What does the implementation involve?

The implementation is broken down into a number of stages:

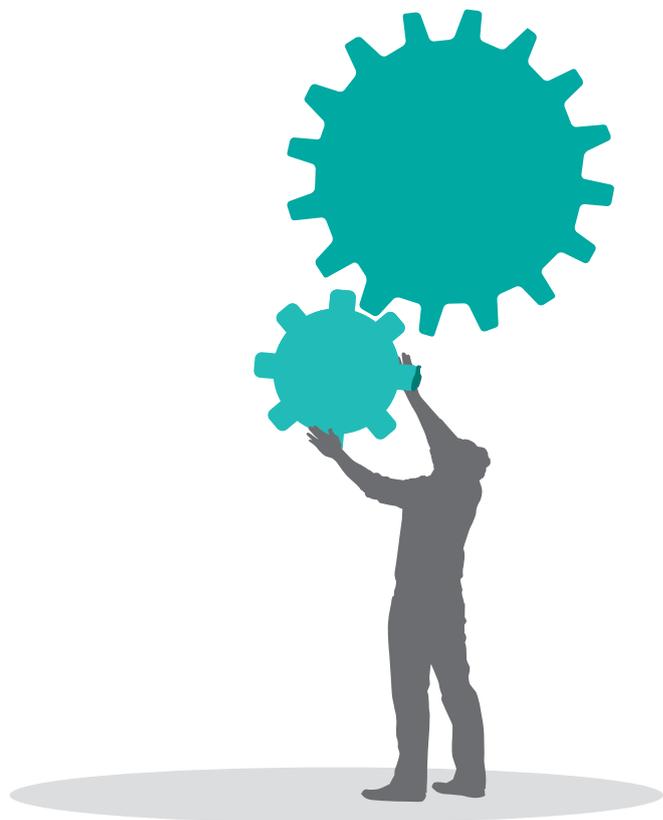
Pre-Implementation – A charter is drawn up so that each party is aware of their obligations at each stage. Pre-implementation work involves end user training, product capture and barcode/product linking.

Implementation – This happens on week nine of the project and a member of the NHS Supply Chain Implementation Team will be with the trust full time for a minimum of two weeks after the go-live to ensure a smooth transition. A full stocktake will also be conducted before go-live on all “in-scope” products to ensure an accurate baseline is captured.

Post-implementation – NHS Supply Chain will gradually decrease the support provided allowing end users to manage the solution effectively. A final stocktake will be carried out 12 weeks after initial go-live.

What kind of support can we expect?

Part of the Implementation plan is to identify what kind of support you will need from us. This includes making sure all the appropriate trust staff are fully trained, and then providing on-going technical and contract management support once eDC Gold is in place. Our IT Helpdesk team will also always be on hand to help and support you.



Implementation and deployment

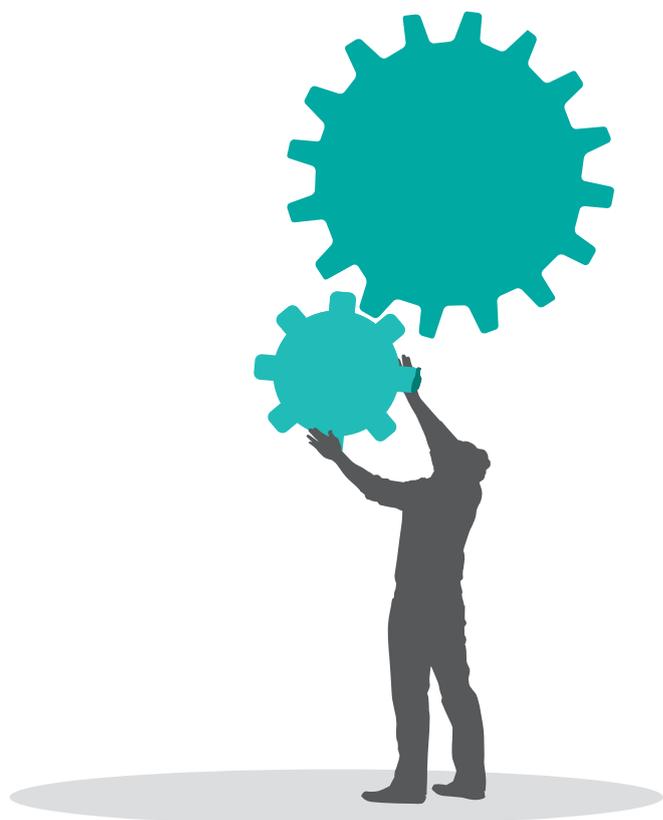
Will we need additional PDAs?

As an output of our risk assessment, we will confirm whether or not additional PDAs are required for the successful implementation of eDC Gold into the in-scope areas. Should we deem additional PDAs are required, these will be provided free of charge by NHS Supply Chain. Should the trust wish to lease additional PDAs from NHS Supply Chain, this can be accommodated subject to availability.

Can the system manage non NHS Supply Chain supplied items?

Yes, the system can manage both NHS Supply Chain supplied products and non-NHS Supply Chain supplied products. However if you plan to use the system for non-NHS Supply Chain transacted products, the following considerations will need to be taken into account;

- All in-scope non-stock products must have their own unique catalogue in the trust purchase to pay system.
- An eDC non-stock purchase order interface is in place or available from the trust system provider.
- An eDC non-stock local catalogue feed is in place or available from the trust system provider.
- The trust accepts that there is a dual receipting requirement for non-NHS Supply Chain transacted products - once into the purchase to pay system to drive the invoice and again as unplanned receipts in eDC Gold to add products into stock.



Day to Day

Who is responsible for the day to activities?

As part of the implementation, the roles and responsibilities within the trust will be defined. However, as a rule, NHS Supply Chain recommend that the materials management team is best placed and has the appropriate skill set to manage eDC Gold effectively.

Who is responsible for managing product attributes?

We will upload and create stock definitions in partnership with you during implementation to ensure accuracy. However, once the system is live, the task of maintaining stock definitions becomes the trust's responsibility. We will provide training to ensure this process runs as smoothly as possible.

How easy is it to add or remove products?

We will give full training to relevant members of your team to make sure they understand the process of adding and removing products from the database. The system is designed for flexibility and provides the option to link multiple barcodes to a single product for enhanced visibility and control.

Who is responsible for managing large scale changes?

The trust is responsible for carrying out any large scale changes such as rationalisation or supplier change, but where appropriate, further support will be available from NHS Supply Chain and suppliers.

Can we be sure we'll have products for the patients?

eDC Gold can be set up to place orders in two different ways;

One for one - Every time a product is used, eDC Gold will generate a replacement order to ensure you always have the items you need.

Top Up - The trust will pre-determine the levels of stock required based on historical turnover information. The system will then calculate the required order based on the products that have been both received and issued against the desired stock level.

Both methods are reliable subject to the system been used correctly and processes being followed. Should there be an emergency or you require new products, these can be ordered and added to eDC Gold to meet changing demands.

What kind of tracking is available?

Whenever a product's barcode is scanned – on receipt, or when issued or at any other point – the batch and serial attribute data is automatically captured if desired. This ensures your trust can track each item internally at every stage to help with product recall and management.

Will eDC Gold help with expiry date management?

eDC Gold can record product expiry dates and report on products nearing the end of their life to meet the trust's specific requirements. This means you can benefit by reducing the financial and clinical liability of expired products.

The Features and the Future

Is eDC Gold GS1 compliant?

eDC Gold currently supports GS1, HIBC and EAN. However GS1 is the agreed new standard for the NHS as adopted by the Department of Health. As a result, eDC Gold is currently classed as GS1 ready.

What is the future for eDC Gold?

eDC Gold will be constantly evolving to provide further improvements and features. As part of this process it is really important to us that users of the system provide regular feedback to us, so please let us know if your trust has any comments or proposals by contacting the [Customer Service Helpdesk](#) on **0845 680 4357** or email cshelpdesk@supplychain.nhs.uk.

