



A Quick Look: THE HEALTH INDUSTRY NUMBER (HIN) SYSTEM

HIN WAS DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT HEALTHCARE INTERESTS

HIN was developed by the healthcare industry to support the business needs of all trading partners doing business in their supply chain.

HIN'S SCOPE IS NOT LIMITED TO HEALTHCARE

HIN assignments are not limited to healthcare specific entities. Current HIN assignments also include establishments such as grocery stores, retail pharmacies and video outlets. Likewise, HIN subscribers include numerous companies such as Energizer, Kodak, United Parcel Service (UPS) and US Foods Service whose services are not healthcare specific.

HIN IDENTIFIES LOCATIONS & SERVICES

HIN assignments currently identify over 1 million locations and services, reflecting brick and mortar, functional and legal entities.

HIN DATA IS SOURCED FROM SUPPLIERS AND PROVIDERS

HIN is subscriber driven, so data originates from the information submitted by subscribers and is then validated by a central source with the entity being identified.

HIN DATA IS VALIDATED BY A CENTRALIZED AUTHORITY

HIN data is validated and maintained by HIBCC, an internationally accredited standards organization. As a centralized authority, HIBCC provides consistency and accuracy to HIN data through standardized practices and protocols, including: 1. edit checks on all information for completeness and conformance to guidelines; 2. phone verification to the entity being identified; and 3. validation against the current database to ensure duplication does not occur.

HIN IS APPLIED INTERNATIONALLY

HIN is used to identify both domestic and international locations.

HINS ARE NEVER RE-USED

HINs are unique and non-reusable. Because the HIN is alphanumeric, there are an almost infinite number of possible assignments. For this reason, when HINs are deactivated they are permanently retired and are never re-issued to other entities. This provides the security necessary to maintain accurate identification and to avoid duplication.

HINS ARE UPDATED TO REFLECT CHANGES

Because the HIN is tied to the location of an entity, HIN assignments can change when an entity moves. When this occurs, HIBCC will verify the new address, deactivate the existing HIN and assign a new HIN. The new HIN record indicates the original HIN assignment as a reference to facilitate an easy update of a subscriber's files.

HIN DATA IS ACCESSIBLE 24/7 VIA iHIN

iHIN is a web-enabled portal to the HIN System. It allows users to browse the HIN database; construct and download queries; and submit HIN requests to HIBCC.

HIN REGISTRATION IS FREE

There is no fee to be included in the HIN database, as the HIN System is largely supported by manufacturers, distributors and other suppliers of services on behalf of providers and provider organizations. Providers can access information on their respective facilities and request updates and new assignments by contacting HIBCC. There is no cost to individual providers for this service.

The HIBCC office can be reached at: 602.553.8552 or info@hibcc.org.