

## Why use the HIN?

The HIN was conceived to establish a common reference number for identifying health care entities in electronic transactions between trading partners.

The overall objectives of the HIN are to provide:

- **Consistency** – Use the same number when referring to the same entity or organization
- **Accuracy** – reduce costly shipping errors on orders, and avoid product being delivered to the wrong place. Improve reporting and sales analysis by the use of a consistent number and by the elimination of cross reference files
- **Efficiency** – Reduce the amount of clerical effort needed by manufacturers to research and maintain cross-reference files
- **Timeliness** – Publish new numbers and updates periodically to subscribing manufacturers, distributors and providers so that they can maintain their files on a timely basis. Reduce the look-up effort and reduce the lag time in rebate payments

## How can I find out more?

This brochure is only a short introduction to the HIN System. To find out more about the system, and how to subscribe, please contact HIBCC AU.



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## HIN® SYSTEM

*Your address on the Information  
Super Highway*



The Alfred Hospital  
HIN: AUV018800



Pharmacy Department HIN: AUV0188F1  
Operating Theatres HIN: AUV0188F2  
Stores Department HIN: AUV0188F3  
Radiology Department HIN: AUV0188F5

## About HIBCC AU

The Health Industry Business Communications Council® (HIBCC®) is an industry-sponsored and supported nonprofit organisation. As an ANSI-accredited organisation, our primary function is to facilitate electronic communications by developing appropriate standards for information exchange among all health care trading partners.

Our broad mission has involved HIBCC in a number of critical areas, including electronic data interchange message formats, barcode labelling data standards, universal numbering systems, and the provision of databases which assure common identifiers.

HIBCC AU Incorporated is the Australian Affiliate of HIBCC, and its charter is to promote, implement and support the HIBCC products and services to Australian Healthcare.

## What is the HIN?

The Health Industry Number (HIN) is a unique identifier for enumerating locations and providers of services and activities throughout the health industry. The HIN enumerates provider establishments, and other entities in the health industry supply chain, and is physically represented as a nine-character alphanumeric string.

## What does the HIN do?

The HIN is intended to be a “bridge” between a company’s internal account numbers and the account numbers of its trading partners. Instead of sending an internal account number for an end-customer in a business transaction, or sending textual data such as name and address, HINs provide an unambiguous means of

identifying the common customers of trading partners without the hindrance of maintaining multiple cross-references.

The HIN will:

- streamline the identification of internal customer accounts in inbound messages
- reduce transmission costs in EDI messages
- facilitate sales roll-up and customer account file clean-up

## What Comprises the HIN System?

The HIN System in Australia is currently comprised of the HIN® Facility Database, which includes all healthcare facilities identified by SHIP TO address, and manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors.

## What data is kept in the HIN System?

The primary data elements associated with providers and establishments in the HIN database include name, physical address, city, state, post code and telephone number. All establishments are assigned a market segment. HIN records also maintain a complete audit trail of the actions taken upon the record.

## How do you access HIN Data?

### Periodic Distribution:

The HIN Database is distributed quarterly on CD ROM to all HIN subscribers. Each CD contains a cumulative copy of the database so when loaded will provide a complete refresh of the HIN Database.

### Weekly Updates:

The changes that occur to the Database from Monday to Friday are available as weekly updates to subscribers. Updates are available as

a text file download from the HIBCC Web site ([www.hibcc-au.com.au](http://www.hibcc-au.com.au), HIN System page). Subscribers can maintain a timely database between distributions by loading these weekly updates. This service is available free of charge to all subscribers, but requires registration with the HIBCC AU office.

### Web Interface:

The web user interface to HIN is called iHIN. This Web-enabled database allows subscribers immediate access to HIN information, resulting in faster synchronization with a subscriber’s internal system. iHIN also provides users the ability to create and download specific segments of data, customized to meet the needs of their business. Subscribers can download as many as 160,000 HIN records a year from iHIN without charge.

Subscribers can access iHIN by logging on to [www.hibcchin.org](http://www.hibcchin.org) or linking from the HIN System page on the main HIBCC AU Web site. New users will be asked to create a profile by entering their e-mail address, a six character alphanumeric password and their company’s account ID (provided by HIBCC AU). Multiple user profiles can be set up under one account ID, with downloads and charges being applied to that company’s account. For more information or to obtain your account ID, please contact the HIBCC AU office.

## HIN Hierarchies

Another important and beneficial feature of the HIN System is the HIN Hierarchies tool. Using this tool, subscribers are able to create relationships between facilities of their customers. HIN Subscribers are able to establish the connection between the hospitals and their owners, and to dynamically change these as the facilities change ownership, or other changes to the hierarchy are made.