

IMP Storage and distribution

Reliable, trusted logistics for clinical trials, with end-to-end visibility of time- and temperature-sensitive products

Sponsors and contract research organizations (CROs) must ensure the integrity, compliance and on time availability of investigational medicinal products (IMPs).

Typical business challenges

- Ensuring global availability of medicinal product
- Providing IMP in time to adhere to patients treatment schedules
- Maintaining regulatory compliance
- Assuring end-to-end temperature control & visibility
- Improving R&D spend for drug development



WE CARE

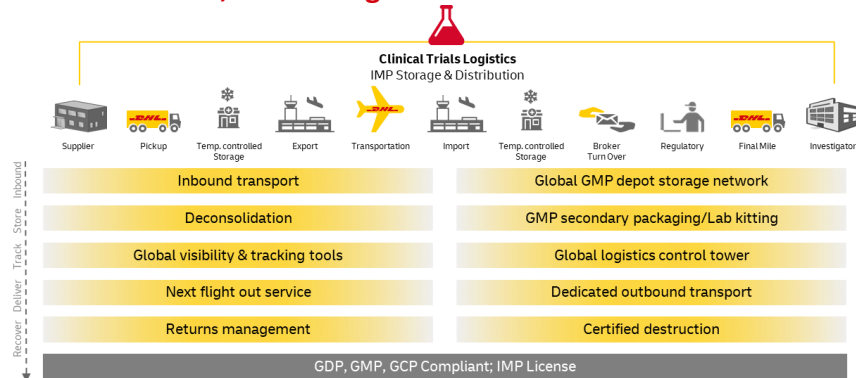
DHL Solution

DHL collects and delivers time-sensitive IMPs for clinical trials, maintaining product integrity under rigorous temperature-controlled conditions in transit and across the global DHL good manufacturing practice (GMP) depot network. This ensures on-time product availability at the point of treatment.

Solving your business challenges

- **Ensuring global IMP availability** – More than 20 GMP depots serving more than 80 countries across all regions; providing storage and VAS like kitting, labeling; >85% volume in DHL-owned facilities; 200+ DHL dedicated personnel plus 9,000 certified specialists including 150+ pharmacists
- **Adhering to patient treatment schedules** – Fast, flexible and reliable IMP distribution; clinical shipments receive special care through DHL's global network and owned fleet of over 250 aircraft
- **Maintaining regulatory compliance** – Adhere to GMP quality standard in all depots (country, regional, global) and a team of 9,000 certified specialists with over 150 pharmacists; global SOP's
- **Assuring end-to-end temperature control & visibility** – Transport and store in +25°C to -196°C range; visibility through global standardized systems and interactive dashboards
- **Improving R&D spend for drug development** – Leverage synergies through DHL's global network for highest quality at fair cost

The highest standards of reliable, trusted logistics for clinical trials with end-to-end visibility



IMP Storage and Distribution

Key benefits for your business



Reliable

Fast, reliable, flexible pickup and delivery



Global network

Best locations; optimal depot-investigator site proximity



Visibility

End-to-end inventory visibility across all locations and in transit



Integrated

Global standard operating procedures (SOPs) and quality management system

Global clinical trials logistics for large pharma

Consolidation of large pharma clinical trial logistics network into a regional distribution model



Customer Challenge

- Large increase in studies over 5 years with a flat R&D budget
- Distributing study medication supplies through affiliates, maintaining 72 warehouses, resulting in high buffer stocks at warehouses and long transit lead times
- Inventory overage of 157% on average across entire study portfolio
- Lead time of minimum 4-5 weeks from completion of secondary packaging to patient kits available at INV sites
- No visibility of stored and distributed clinical supplies at affiliate warehouses



DHL solution

- 3-hub solution distribution to 80% of investigator sites globally >40 countries
- Processes and staff to manage considerate growth of 60+ new & 140 active studies
- Investigation material with 3 temperature zone requirements (2–8°C, 15–25°C, -20°C)
- Additional services including cGMP packaging and returns/reconciliation
- Supply Chain Integrator (Sci) tool for universal shipping and inventory access
- Full system integrated with multiple IRT (IVR/IWR)



Customer benefits

- 3 depots serving 45 countries (80% of investigator sites), enabling depot network to be reduced from 72 to 20
- Considerable savings of logistics costs (estimated 40%) and inventory
- Single contact at DHL; management time and communication improved
- Detailed global inventory, shipping and cost data across all studies
- 60+ logistics processes reduced to
- Single EU QP release process and using 1 authorizing body (reduced from 27)

Case study

