

Clark Memorial Hospital, Wasp Barcode Technologies Raise the “Bar” on Patient

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

Complex hospital pharmacy operation with 3,000+ inventoried items needs to track movement and administration of medication as part of their Barcode Initiative

SOLUTION

WaspLabeler + 2D helped the hospital pharmacy implement an easy medication re-labeling solution for injectables and other vial medications

BENEFITS

- Less waste
- Better care delivered
- More efficient processes

CUSTOMER PROFILE

- Jefferson, Indiana,
- state-of-the-art hospital facility
- Est. 1922



The WaspLabeler + 2D barcode Labeling Software is great. It saves us money and time, but more important, it will have an impact on decreasing medication administration errors and improve patient safety.
- Gary Pollock, Pharmacy Systems Administrator,
Clark Memorial Hospital

Patient Safety Drives Barcode Initiative

Clark Memorial Hospital’s barcode initiative requires that patients receive a unique barcoded wristband upon admission; and all medications carry a barcode label at the point of patient administration. Barcode technology reduces adverse events stemming from medication misadministration and helps reinforce the Five Rights of Medication Administration: Right Patient, Right Medication, Right Time, Right Dose, and Right Route.

The NDC number is printed as a 2D barcode on the medication’s container by its manufacturer. 2D barcodes are used because of their compact size, built-in error correction and relative insensitivity to the reading angle of the barcode scanner, but Clark Memorial discovered the drugs often carried poorly printed or hard-to-read barcode labels.

“The FDA mandated that all vendors of medications must add a barcode,

but they didn’t mandate the quality of the barcode,” said Gary Pollock MS, RN, MT(ASCP), Pharmacy Systems Administrator at Clark Memorial Hospital. “Sometimes a barcode is wrapped around a tiny vial, and the curvature of the vial prevents our scanner from reading the 1D linear barcode. Others are printed on paper that doesn’t carry crisp, readable barcodes or they have reflective foil that makes the code difficult to read.”

After searching for an alternative labeling method, Pollock found Wasp Barcode’s WaspLabeler + 2D Barcode Labeling Software and chose to adopt the software for Clark Memorial’s re-labeling needs.

Wasp Barcode Technologies Saves Valuable Time and Money

The WaspLabeler + 2D Barcode Labeling Software produces both 1D linear barcodes and 2D barcodes for Clark Memorial Hospital. “2D barcodes are physically smaller so we can place them

on the small vials, medications and packets” said Pollock.

An immediate application was relabeling PCA (Patient Control Anesthesia) medication cartridges with barcode labels that were readable by the hospital’s Smart IV Pumps. Wasp’s software easily created labels that could be read by the pumps as the medication cartridge was inserted by the nurse. This enabled a cross-check on the drug programmed by the nurse and assured compatibility with the type of medication being dispensed, decreasing the risk of human-error and of course, improving patient safety.

One vial of insulin holds three milliliters, about a thimbleful, of medication and costs approximately \$50.00. Prior to Wasp, nurses had to discard any additional medication in vial after administration. Now, it would be possible to safely re-label and reuse these vials by flagging it with WaspLabeler + 2D. In the case of insulin, nurses withdraw the appropriate amount of medication into a syringe (usually around 5/100’s of a milliliter), enter the patient’s room with

only the necessary amount of insulin, and re-label the remaining, un-contaminated insulin for re-use.



“The WaspLabeler + 2D barcode Labeling Software is great. It saves us money and time, but more important, it will have an impact on decreasing medication administration errors and improve patient safety,” said Pollock. Wasp’s solutions were easy to implement and even easier to learn.

WASPLABELER + 2D HELPS CLARK MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

- Implement safety measures that promote the 5 Rights of Medication Administration
- Incorporate pharmacy practices that keep costs down and improve operational efficiency
- Ensure compliance with Federal regulations

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