ACCURATE BARCODE PRINTING IN HOSPITAL PHARMACIES:
100% CORRECT MEDICATION LABELING

The adoption and use of barcode technology and printing is imperative for hospital administrators and healthcare providers. The need for accurate and reliable barcode printing cannot be underestimated – it is the 'first step' to ensuring efficiency and patient safety.

SITUATION

The safety of patients is paramount within healthcare. However, according to recent market research the rate of medication error in hospitals is between 8 to 25%[1], depending on the region. Furthermore, it is reported that each year in the United States alone, 7,000 to 9,000 people die due to medication error[2], with the total annual cost of looking after patients with medication-associated errors exceeding $40 billion globally[3]. This undoubtedly has a negative impact on the healthcare providers' reputation and financial results due to damaging litigation.

To keep pace with the demands of modern healthcare, pharmacies need to operate efficiently and accurately, while complying to strict regulatory requirements.

1. AHRQ:https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/medication-administration-errors
2. Medication Errors, Authors: Rayhan A. Tariq; Yevgenia Scherbak (2020) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK519065/
3. WHO: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/patient-safetyt

This requires fast, precise barcode scanners and printers that optimize workflows.

The ability to quickly and easily print and scan barcode labels is just as important to pharmacy technicians as it is to nurses. Eliminating hard-to-read barcodes is a key benefit – no one in the hospital wants to struggle with 'bad barcodes'.

Pharmaceutical barcode label printers are therefore critical in a medication administration system, and they are required to be precise, fast, reliable and easy to maintain. Ensuring that each medicine/item is correctly labeled with a readable barcode equips clinicians and can give them the peace of mind that they are administering the right medicine, thus prioritizing and maintaining patient safety.

SOLUTION

Honeywell has long championed clinical barcode scanning and printing solutions for medication administration at the bedside. We can do the same for your pharmacy with solutions that can help you improve workflow efficiency, accuracy and patient safety, while managing costs.

Honeywell PX940 Industrial Printer:
With the introduction of the PX940 high-performance industrial printer with integrated label verification, Honeywell has changed the landscape of barcode printing, taking it to a new level of accuracy and simplicity. Customers are provided with error-free precision printing, increasing production efficiency and reducing operational costs.

Honeywell

Honeywell PX940 High Performance Computer with Integrated Label Verification

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MORE ABOUT HONEYWELL PX940

Developed for companies that are subjected to fines levied for non-compliance to regulatory shipments due to unreadable barcodes, the PX940 Series is ideally suited for hospital pharmacies, a department that is highly regulated and requires extreme precision and error-free printing. The printer is simple, easy to use, requires little maintenance and includes a built-in printhead cleaning routine that provides optimal print quality for its lifetime. It is available with standard features such as Bluetooth® and Smart Printing capability, in which users can configure and fine-tune settings without the need for a host computer.

The PX940 Series prints barcodes that are 100% readable every time[4]. The fully integrated verifier allows for quick setting up when printing and verifying different labels. With pass/fail and ANSI grades from 1 to 4, bad labels that do not meet an established threshold are voided and a new label is reprinted. Integrated label verification technology provides error free printing, resulting in cost savings of up to $15,000 per printer. In addition, customers can realize a cost saving of $6,000 per printer by not having to scrap bad and unreadable barcodes[5]. This will also save the healthcare providers from paying out costs associated with fines levied for bad labels or wrong medication administrated to patients. Reports indicate that in the US there have been, on average, 12,414 cases of medical malpractice annually for the past decade, and since 2009, a total of $38.5 billion has been paid out to victims of medical malpractice[6].

The trend toward miniaturization in label printing requires printing on smaller and smaller labels. Since the PX940 printer has registration of up to +/- 0.3 mm (0.012 in), it can print accurately on small labels, edge to edge with high precision. This is important in a hospital pharmacy where there is the need to label very small items such as medicines, bottles, vials and syringes.

The Future is What We Make It.
Learn how Honeywell can partner with you to take the future of your printing to a new level with the high-performance PX940 industrial printer with integrated label verification technology – and how it can help you eliminate the risk of bad labels.

Contact a Honeywell Solutions Expert today! Call 1-800-934-3163.

4. Honeywell Internal Research; PX940 Datasheet
5. Honeywell Internal Testing
6. The National Practitioner Data Bank
   https://www.npdb.hrsa.gov/

For More Information

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