

Case Study



PakPlus-Rx Bar-Code Consulting Supports Scanning Accuracy PWNJ

Overview

Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital-WNJ (PWNJ), located in Sherman, TX, is a not-for profit facility with more than 240 beds, meeting the growing healthcare needs of four counties in North Texas and Southern Oklahoma. As the hospital prepared for the implementation of bar-code medication administration (BCMA) and electronic MAR, it was critically important that the pharmacy ensure all medications were bar-code ready and that all scanners used by nurses could accurately read all bar-coded medication into the system.

Challenges

PWNJ is using McKesson’s Paragon Pharmacy and BCMA system, as well as AcuDose-Rx® medication dispensing cabinets. The pharmacy uses Medi-Dose software and purchased a tadpole label printer from McKesson Automation to help package medications into bar-coded unit-dose form. Kevin Doherty, director of pharmacy, knew that it was critical to the success of bedside medication scanning to check all bar-coded inventory to ensure accurate scanning.

“Not everything always scans properly when new scanners are added to the mix. Different makes and models sometimes have to be programmed to ensure that the NDC is read correctly. We needed to be 100 percent sure that the scanners our nurses were using at the bedside were going to accurately scan all medications. This helps to ensure patient safety which is our ultimate goal.”

It was important that he find a way to ensure all bar codes scan before going live with BCMA. He also needed assistance with bar-coding items that did not have a usable manufacturer bar code.

Answers

As Kevin began researching his options for scanning his inventory and completing

the additional bar coding, he turned to McKesson Automation’s PakPlus-Rx Bar-Code Professional Services. With this service, McKesson Automation experts observed all hospital pharmacy operations and recommended site-specific changes to ensure bar-code readiness. For PWNJ, this was very beneficial. Kevin was able to use the site analysis to revamp policies and workflow in light of the new processes that the hospital was implementing.

In addition, as part of that service, the hospital was able to contract four weeks of technician time where McKesson Automation technicians scanned each bar-coded item with the BCMA scanners to ensure the readability. They also applied new bar codes to medications where they were missing, not readable or where it would be difficult for nurses to scan the manufacturer bar code.

“There were a lot of items that did not scan when we started the project. It was overwhelming and frustrating at first because I was not sure how we were going to fix it,” Kevin said. “Thanks to McKesson’s professional guidance and technician support, everything scans. They identified all items that would not scan, did a lot of troubleshooting, and worked directly with the scanner vendor to get the scanners reprogrammed to ensure that the bar codes were able to be scanned.”

“The PakPlus Bar-Code Consulting Service was exactly what we needed. Without the dedicated resources provided by McKesson, our barcode preparation could have taken several months instead of four weeks. The accelerated time frame enabled us to easily meet our projected Medication Administration “go-live” date without delay. When the technicians left, I was 100 percent confident that if we went live with our BCMA system today, everything was bar coded and would scan for our nurses, and that’s a great peace of mind to have,” concluded Kevin.

At a Glance

Texas Health Presbyterian – WNJ
Sherman, TX

Solution Spotlight

- PakPlus-Rx™ Bar-Code Professional Services

Results

- Assurance that the hospital is bar-code ready
- 100% confidence that all bar codes scan
- Increased nursing satisfaction
- Enhanced patient safety

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