



BUYER'S GUIDE

Special *PP&P* Buyer's Guide:

Bar Code Scanners and Readers

FEW ISSUES RELATED TO PATIENT SAFETY ARE RECEIVING AS MUCH attention as bar coded medication administration (BCMA). Likewise, few issues require as much forethought and careful planning prior to implementation. From packaging equipment to bedside medication verification software, pharmacy has many purchase decisions to make on the journey to BCMA, including the selection of bar code scanners and readers. While choosing the appropriate bar code scanners and readers for your pharmacy and your overall health care facility, there are a number of purchase considerations to keep in mind.

First, determine if you require a handheld or hands-free configuration. A hands-free configuration works well for small, easily manipulated items, such as patient medications. On the other hand, a handheld scanner is useful in scanning large, difficult-to-move items and patient wristbands. Several readers available in the market can be configured as both a hands-free and a handheld device to better facilitate the user's activity at any given moment.

You should also evaluate the different types of readers available. Linear CCD/linear laser readers produce a single scan line and are suitable for applications such as scanning medications and wristbands. Pattern, or multi-line, laser readers are also suited to those tasks, but may complete a read more

quickly than their single-scan-line counterparts. Image array (two-dimensional) CCD readers offer the same capabilities as multi-line readers, but are also capable of decoding two-dimensional symbols, such as DataMatrix codes, which will be increasingly prevalent on drug manufacturer packaging. As such, it may be prudent to purchase a reader that is capable of reading both one-dimensional and two-dimensional symbols, to avoid having to purchase new scanners in the near future.

Once you have determined the best configuration and type of scanner for your operations, involve the devices' end users in the final product selection. Ask them to try the various products under consideration, and solicit their opinions about which readers will work best for their applications. Involving staff members in the purchase decision can ultimately lead to an improved level of buy-in once your BCMA initiative goes live.

On the pages that follow, *PP&P* highlights some of the readers and scanners currently available from a variety of vendors in the market. To request more information on any of the products in our buyer's guide, simply circle the corresponding reader service number on *PP&P*'s free reader service card (bound in every issue for your convenience).



Code Corporation

Code Reader 2.0 (CR2)

The CR2 is an all-symbolology bar code reader that adapts to its reading environment using dynamic optimization technology. The lightweight reader features a dual-path optical system, a 1.3 million-pixel CMOS sensor, and a 400-MHz processor. The CR2 operates in batch, cabled, or wireless modes with data output via Bluetooth, USB, or RS232 keyboard options.

Code Reader 3.0 (CR3)

The CR3 combines imaging technology with a graphic display and rugged keyboard to read large linear and high-density matrix symbols. The wireless version of the reader features a Bluetooth radio with a 300-foot operating range.

Code Reader 1200 (CR1200)

The CR1200 is an omni-directional bar code reader that captures and decodes all symbolologies. The reader features a durable over-molded housing and its non-laser targeting guides the user to optimal reading range. The CR1200 also offers three modes of feedback – vibration, beeps, and LEDs – to alert the user of a "good read."

► For more information, circle reader service number 85 or visit www.codecorp.com

Handheld Products

4600g General Purpose 2D Image Scanner

The 4600g provides point-and-shoot reading of linear and two-dimensional bar codes, giving pharmacists the flexibility to adapt to various types of bar codes that may enter their workflow in the future. Weighing 6.5 ounces, the 4600g is designed for user comfort and will operate after 50 drops to concrete from 6 feet.

► For more information, circle reader service number 80 or visit www.handheld.com

BUYER'S GUIDE



Opticon Inc.

OPL 9725

The OPL 9725 features IrDA wireless communication to permit cable-free portability and one-touch scanning. The OPL 9725 can upload information scanned remotely to an IrDA-equipped PDA or tablet PC or — via the scanner's charging and communication cradle — to any host device.

LPN 1736

The LPN 1736's omni-directional scanning capabilities and concentrated 20-line scan pattern allow for quick hands-free scanning. The LPN 1736 automatically recognizes and decodes most popular bar code symbologies. Programmable parameters allow the user to easily configure the scanner to match a particular application.

OPL 7836

The OPL 7836 features a pistol-style grip, designed to reduce physical stress and user fatigue, and to enable comfortable continuous and repetitive use. The scanner weighs 3.5 ounces and withstands repetitive 5-foot drops to the floor and concrete.

► For more information, circle reader service number 83 or visit www.opticon.com



Symbol Technologies

DS6607

The DS6607 handheld scanner offers a sub-second transfer rate, as well as an intuitive laser-generated aiming pattern to help employees quickly scan data and images. It also features a charge coupled device (CCD) image sensor, allowing it to capture and process one- and two-dimensional bar codes as quickly as a laser scanner. The DS6607 can be used as a hands-free or handheld scanner.

LS4278

Symbol's LS4278 is a cordless Bluetooth-enabled scanner designed to allow pharmacists to scan items that are large, heavy, or out-of-reach. The scanner's single-board construction eliminates common inter-connection failures. The LS4278 also features a scratchproof tempered glass window and long-life charging contacts that can withstand 250,000-plus cradle insertions. The scanner's multiple on-board interfaces and universal cables allow use with different host systems, and it can be upgraded from a central location.

► For more information, circle reader service number 84 or visit www.symbol.com/healthcare



Intermec Inc.

SF51 Cordless Scanner

Intermec's SF51 scanner incorporates a light-weight form factor with a magnetic attach/release mechanism to maximize productivity. Bluetooth radio communication eliminates cables and facilitates complete mobility, and the EV10 linear scan engine reads high density, PDF, and standard range bar codes. With a patent-pending design, the SF51 is designed for wear on the waist, wrist, or chest. The scanner can withstand multiple drops, and the small size is easily articulated for quick scanning.

► For more information, circle reader service number 82 or visit www.intermec.com

MARKETPLACE

(Advertisements)

Hardy Diagnostics offers all the products you need to test the proficiency of your pharmacy staff, when preparing **CSPs (Compounded Sterile Preparations)** according to the new

USP 27, Chapter <797> requirements for media-fill challenge testing.



HARDY
DIAGNOSTICS

phone: (800) 266-2222
fax: (805) 614-9274
website: www.hardydiagnostics.com
email: sales@hardydiagnostics.com

020606j1

For more information, circle #76 on the Reader Service Card

PearsonMedical
Technologies



Pharmacy Bar Code Solutions

clearTag **intelliPack²** **m:Print**

P.O. Box 3640 Pineville, LA 71361 - 866.640.3603 - pearsonmedical.com

For more information, circle #95 on the Reader Service Card