



ReadyScan Unit Dose Repackaging from Cardinal Health

DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY HEALTH SYSTEM (DOCHS) IS A SIX-HOSPITAL, 1,650-bed health system with 150 years of history in compassionate, safe, spiritually centered, and quality patient care. Our hospitals and medical centers (local health ministries) span the California coast, from the San Francisco Bay Area to Los Angeles, providing care for the underserved, sick, and poor.

In June 2003, the presidents of our local health ministries unanimously agreed to further enhance our culture of patient safety by focusing on bedside verification of bar coded medications and positive patient identification as the health system's top patient safety initiatives. The Daughters of Charity Pharmacy Council was charged with finding a solution to bar code 100% of our medications. The council quickly realized the enormous scope of this initiative.

Because the pharmacy council works regularly with Cardinal Health through our joint Demonstrated Savings Program, we first turned to our dedicated Cardinal Health resource to help us analyze the scope of the project. The preliminary analysis came back that up to four million doses per year would need to be repackaged and bar coded to reach our goal of providing bar codes on all of our medications. Our Cardinal representative initially presented us with two options.

Considering Our Packaging Options

"Option A" would have required Daughters of Charity to lease or purchase equipment for the in-house bar coding and packaging of up to four million doses annually. We quickly ruled this out for the following reasons:

- Repackaging is not one of our core competencies.
- Restrictions in space and labor would create more problems.
- We believe that repackaging introduces another potential source for errors.

This led us to "Option B": Find a third party to repackage and bar code the medications for us. However, traditional third-party repackaging companies introduced other challenges. For some repackagers, it can take seven to 10 days from the time of order to the time of receipt. Another consideration is whether the repackager's pricing is based on order volume. In this situation, we were concerned that, in order to get the best price, we would run the risk of overstocking. Additionally, one of our local repackagers is required to take retention samples from each order. Thus, if we ordered 100 doses of a medication, we might receive only 92 to 95 of the doses from that particular service provider. For some DOCHS facilities, we had to consider that 85% of medications going into our Pyxis MedStations are replenished through CardinalASSIST, an automated drug-replenishment program.

Not satisfied with options A or B, we coordinated with Cardinal Health to create a third option. We would work with Cardinal Health and participate in the development of a repackaging solution that worked within a hospital's existing supply-chain management processes. We wanted to receive the repackaged product the same or next day, order our usual quantities, and integrate the solution with CardinalASSIST.

The end result was ReadyScan – a new bar coded, unit dose repackaging service offered by Cardinal. The repackaging takes place in a Cardinal Health facility that follows current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) under Food and Drug Administration guidelines. Cardinal Health offers the service as part of the normal ordering process through www.cardinal.com. Customers that participate in the

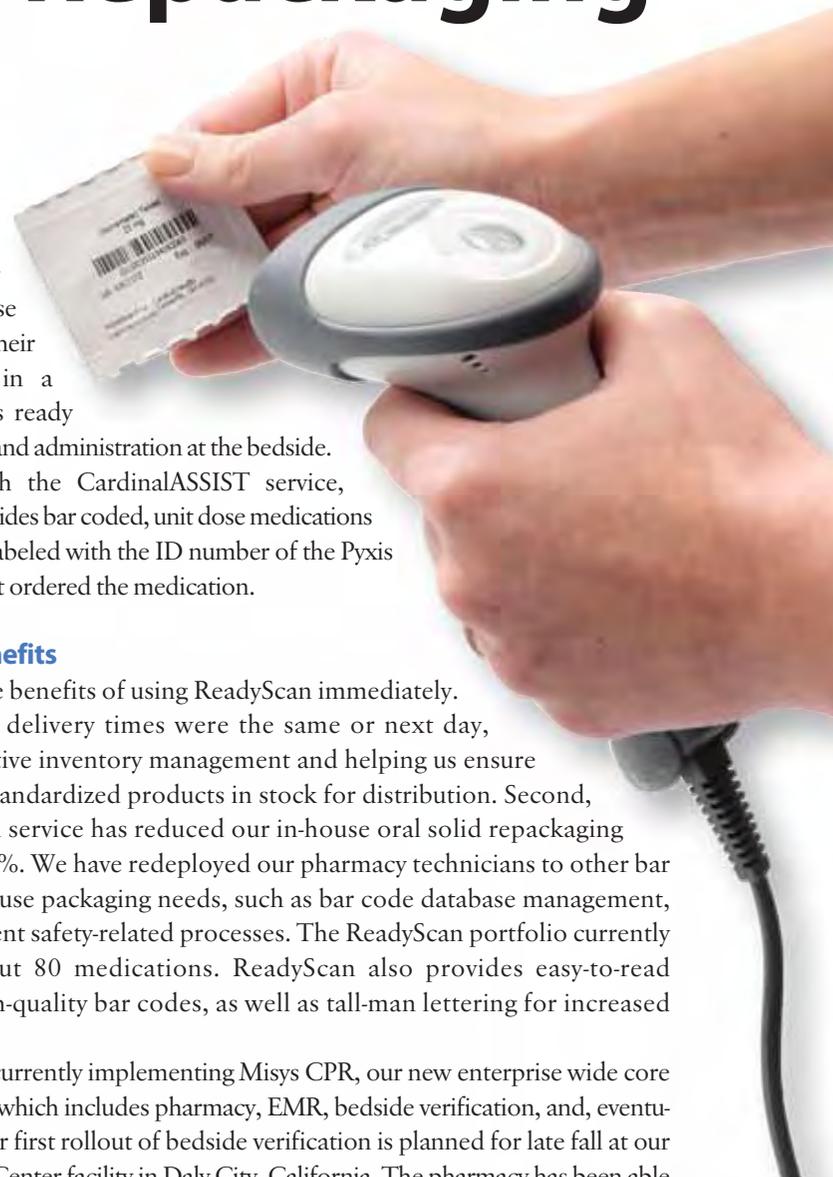
ReadyScan program receive the bar coded, unit dose products with their next delivery in a package that is ready for verification and administration at the bedside. Integrated with the CardinalASSIST service, ReadyScan provides bar coded, unit dose medications compiled and labeled with the ID number of the Pyxis MedStation that ordered the medication.

Program Benefits

We noticed the benefits of using ReadyScan immediately. First, product delivery times were the same or next day, enabling effective inventory management and helping us ensure that we have standardized products in stock for distribution. Second, the ReadyScan service has reduced our in-house oral solid repackaging activities by 80%. We have redeployed our pharmacy technicians to other bar coded, unit of use packaging needs, such as bar code database management, and other patient safety-related processes. The ReadyScan portfolio currently stands at about 80 medications. ReadyScan also provides easy-to-read labels and high-quality bar codes, as well as tall-man lettering for increased patient safety.

DOCHS is currently implementing Misys CPR, our new enterprise wide core clinical system, which includes pharmacy, EMR, bedside verification, and, eventually, CPOE. Our first rollout of bedside verification is planned for late fall at our Seton Medical Center facility in Daly City, California. The pharmacy has been able to provide bar codes on close to 100% of our medications prior to the implementation. This preparation has allowed us to work out the kinks in our process to ensure that the medications will be ready and reliable for the staged go-lives. Our other facilities are staged for their go-lives over the following nine months. Taking advantage of the ReadyScan service will enable our local health ministries to implement our top patient safety priorities and prevent medication errors through verification at the bedside. ■

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Cardinal Health Circle reader service number 81 or visit www.cardinal.com