

## Situation

How to build out a technology footprint that would help meet Nebraska Methodist Hospital's barcode medication administration goals while integrating with existing unit-based cabinets that serve multiple locations.

## Solutions

FastPak® EXP with  
ClinicWorks

FastPak® 71

FastPak® Tabletop

FastFind® Universal  
Carousel

Barcoding Station

*"We are able to package virtually 100 percent of medications with a readable barcode."*

— Kevin Borchert, Pharmacy Informatics Coordinator, Nebraska Methodist Hospital

# Nebraska Methodist Hospital shares multiple lessons learned from initiating barcode medication administration.

A best practice on building out the technology footprint needed to serve as the foundation for the hospital's patient safety initiatives.

In response to the 1999 report from the Institute of Medicine that cites medication errors as the eighth leading cause of death in the United States, Nebraska Methodist Hospital had investigated BCMA beginning in 2000.

## Situation

Nebraska Methodist Hospital is a 450-bed, community-based not-for-profit hospital, located in the heart of Omaha, Nebraska. As a leader in OB/GYN, birthing, cardiology and medical/surgical care, they were faced, as many hospitals are, with multifaceted challenges: to gain better medication inventory control; increase patient safety; and improve communication between the pharmacy and nursing. Barcode medication administration (BCMA) held strong promise.

By involving their IT and nursing staff, they were able to communicate a compelling case for the initiative to the hospital's administration. The key to successful implementation lay with technology.

"We knew BCMA could not be successful unless we had the technology available to have every product barcoded successfully," said Kevin Borchert, Pharmacy Informatics Coordinator at Nebraska Methodist Hospital. Technology would unlock the potential for BCMA to successfully enhance patient safety, documentation accuracy and charge capture.

## The Selection Process

Involving those who would use the system during the selection process proved invaluable; "We involved every stakeholder who had an interest in this, including nursing, IT, finance and administration," said Kevin Borchert, Pharmacy Informatics Coordinator with Nebraska Methodist Hospital.

## Challenge

The BCMA solution seemed right, but there was one dilemma: How to build out a technology footprint that would help meet their barcode medication administration goals while integrating with existing unit-based cabinets that serve multiple locations.

Because the project represented a significant investment, the hospital was careful to review every technology option against a list of objectives.

"We knew we wanted a readable barcode on every package, a small package size that would fit in the pockets of our cabinets, and an interface to do cabinet replenishment from our cabinets into the barcode packaging system," said Borchert. "We also wanted a cost-effective system."

## Solution

The hospital relied on AmerisourceBergen to keep them ahead of the curve on technology options that would work best for their needs. "AmerisourceBergen Technology Group contacted us," said Borchert,

who was pleased that the proactive provision of information helped in the decision-making process.

And as a result, Nebraska Methodist implemented the AmerisourceBergen Technology Group's RxWorks™ Suite Solution which includes the FastPak® EXP with ClinicWorks, FastPak® 71, the FastPak® Tabletop, the FastFind® Universal Carousel and the Barcoding Station.

AmerisourceBergen's solutions were all-encompassing, providing the type and size of equipment that would work in the physical plant, with comprehensive maintenance and service options to support the technology.

"We needed a successful and reliable system that could place barcodes on packages, whether it's an oral solid, or a label or sticker that we need to place on the package itself," said Borchert.

## The Result

BCMA delivers significant and measureable results. Multiple quantifiable and non-quantifiable benefits have resulted from the project including:

- Greater than 90 percent of medication errors evaluated had bypassed the BCMA process
- Almost 100 percent of all medications now have readable barcodes
- A reduction of 10 to 15 percent of inventory on hand within the carousel
- Reduced inventory ordering time from two hours to ten minutes
- Reduction in time to check for outdated product

In addition, Borchert noted that nurse satisfaction and the patient experience is enhanced knowing that the new BCMA system helps prevent medication errors.

For more information about barcode medication administration solutions, contact AmerisourceBergen at 877-892-1254.