

Patient Safety and Lower Costs With Barcode Printing

Patient safety is in the hands of the nurses who play a critical role in ensuring that each and every patient's specimen is correctly labeled and identified. They need advanced mobile printing technology at the bedside to **help prevent and minimize labeling errors, reduce adverse events and save money.**

RISK

Despite advances in safety and technology, **preventable errors still occur due to lack of automation.**

Estimated **160,000** adverse medical events result from misidentification of patient or lab specimen - more than 55% of these events is directly related to specimen mislabeling¹



Nearly 1 billion blood draws are done each year,² but **11.9%** of blood specimen errors occur due to mislabeling and/or requisition mismatch¹



1 in 4 errors occur during the lab testing process and the majority of these errors occur in the "pre-analytic" phase, which includes the process of patient identification and specimen labeling - this costs hospitals an estimated **\$349** per pre-analytical error¹



Mislabeled specimens are the most common error (29.9%)³

INTERVENTION

The strongest intervention to reduce labeling errors is with **barcode labeling of samples at the time they are collected, in the presence of the patient.**

Key implementation components for making barcoding technology work as intended include:



Necessary equipment – Mobile barcode printers available on every cart at the point-of-care

BENEFITS

80%

Reduction in specimen mislabeling⁴

SAFETY, QUALITY

- ✓ Positive patient identification
- ✓ Positive specimen identification
- ✓ Greatly reduces labeling errors

\$400,000

Median cost of medical malpractice⁵

\$1 MILLION

Median cost of wrongful death suit⁵

STREAMLINES WORKFLOWS

- ✓ Enables nurses to work hands free
- ✓ Efficient
 - Available at bedside
 - Fast, accurate printing
- ✓ Saves money
 - Reduces number of adverse event at a significant savings
- ✓ Saves time, rework
- ✓ Maximizes existing assets/cost containment

CONCLUSION

Printer specimen labeling at the nurses' station, or "batch mode," is costly and potentially dangerous. Best practices call for a mobile solution that enables caregiver to print barcoded specimen labels at the bedside and at the point of care for **improved patient safety, savings and caregiver and patient satisfaction.**



To learn more about wireless barcode scanning technology, visit www.honeywellaidc.com.



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