

Positive patient identification: more than a double check

We searched, we sorted, we strained our resources to compile our first-ever look at the positive patient identification market, primarily for clinical pathology, which begins on the following page. CAP TODAY has a long history of publishing such product- and vendor-related data, but probing a new market, as we did for positive patient ID, is a nearly year-long endeavor. Zeroing in on what questions to ask the vendors—that is, knowing what you, the readers, need to know—and even who the vendors are (in an effort to include everyone) is no simple task. As always, we tapped invaluable experts—in this case, Suzanne Butch, CLDir(NCA), Walter Dzik, MD, Raymond Aller, MD, and Hal Weiner. And here it is at last, with, we assume (but hope not), an oversight or two, but also with our assurance that it will be refined from year to year. Let us know what you think.

—The Editors

Raymond Aller, MD

Positive patient identification systems and tools are not glitch-free, but they are a necessity. On rare occasions, errors pop up when such products are being used appropriately, but most studies of bar-code technology indicate error rates of less than one in 100,000, and that's orders of magnitude better than the average human error rate of one to three percent.

Automated systems to prevent medical personnel from drawing blood from, or infusing blood into, the wrong patient were introduced commercially in the early 1990s. In 1988, Karen Longe, at that time with the American Hospital Association, conducted a seminal demonstration at the AHA's annual meeting that focused on an integrated system for applying a bar-coded wristband and using that identifier

to follow a patient through the entire admission/treatment/discharge process, including laboratory, radiology, and pharmacy tests and interventions.

During the next few years, several laboratory information systems vendors introduced positive patient ID systems for phlebotomy. But it wasn't long before the vendors realized that despite the unassailable case for knowing who it was that you were about to draw blood from, or give blood to, laboratories weren't interested in the products. Positive patient ID systems languished—to the point that, when one vendor's handheld device was found to lack Y2K compatibility, the vendor sunsetted the product instead of updating it. Laboratories seemed to be sending the following messages to vendors:

- We don't have a problem with patient misidentification.
- Nobody's complaining about patient misidentification.
- We need to address other areas in which our clients are complaining that we are lagging.

This outlook was based on a fallacious assumption—if we don't know about a problem, it must not exist. Typically only in disastrous cases where the wrong ABO type was infused into a patient did labs figure out they had a problem. And most laboratories did not experience such disasters because they used special blood bank wristbands, double-draw procedures before transfusion, and other measures to shore up their flawed phlebotomy identification process.

Yet laboratories that conducted studies of their own manual error rates found horrifying results. One lab manager found that seven percent of the blood specimens from his hospital's ICU were drawn

from the wrong patient—and specimens from the hospital's med-surg units did not fare much better. But laboratories did not publish studies pointing out their high error rates—probably fearing that it would cast a bad light on their institution and that other institutions would consider them a bad apple, rather than the norm.

But times have changed, due in part to the Institute of Medicine publication series that began with *To Err Is Human*. Professional and public interest in the causes and prevention of medical errors has escalated. The medical field is increasingly recognizing that patient misidentification is a common, potentially deadly, and largely preventable error.

At the same time, a new cadre of positive patient identification systems are emerging, shifting the focus from whether you should install a positive patient identification system to which one you should purchase. To this end, CAP TODAY features on pages 27–33 a lineup of nine positive patient identification hardware and software systems and five related products, such as bar-code and radio-frequency identification wristbands. The systems featured focus primarily on inpatient phlebotomy and rely on a separate, highly reliable system to ensure that patients receive the correct wristband. This is followed below by a profile of printers and labels for producing bar-coded identification bracelets and other identifiers.

The information presented in the surveys is based on vendors' responses to a questionnaire. We encourage readers to verify the accuracy of all information before making a purchase. □

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Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 1 of 7	Baxter Healthcare Corp. Tova Manett, tova-manett@baxter.com 1 Yorkdale Rd., Suite 310 Toronto, ON M6A 3A1, Canada 416-784-4898, www.baxter.com	Becton, Dickinson and Company Dana Cogan, dana_cogan@bd.com 1 Becton Drive, MC314 Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 800-595-0257,www.bd.com/bdid
See accompanying article on page 26		
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	Baxter’s Patient Care System	BD.id Patient Identification System for Specimen Management
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	—	—
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	—	1999
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	—	2005
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	5	5
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	—	0
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	—	3
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	3	5
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	fingerprint	—
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	one-dimensional bar-code wristband	one-dimensional bar-code wristband (The BD.id Patient Identification System for Specimen Management is used to verify information on wristbands containing linear bar codes for patient identification. This is a precondition for use of the system.)
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	—	—
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	—	—
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	—	patient name, account No./MRN, whichever unique patient identifier the hospital designates to be bar-coded on the wristband
System functionality	patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	—	bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube; bar-code label placed on tube in tube manufacturing process
Data elements encoded on specimen label	—	accession No., container ID/unique accession No.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	—	n/a
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	—	n/a
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	—	n/a
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration	n/a
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code	n/a
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	5½ in × 3¼ in	PPT 8800: 1.3 in H × 3.1 in W × 5.7 in L
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	8 oz	10.1 oz
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	real-time infrared, real-time radio frequency	intermittent docking, specified protocol
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	—	no
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	—	no
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	—	no (not necessary)
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	—	no
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	—	yes
Required interface(s)	HIS and LIS	HIS and LIS
• Hospital information system interfaces	—	Cerner, McKesson, Meditech, Siemens
• Laboratory information system interfaces	—	Meditech, Misys, Cerner, SCC Soft Computer, Siemens
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	—	depends on No. of users
• Single handheld workstation	—	—
• Information system interface	—	—
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)		• V-notch alignment technology to reduce misalignment errors • wireless, wired, or mixed synchronization modes provide patient information at bedside throughout facility • documented ROI—provides results generated from hospital-specific data using Lean and Six Sigma methodologies

Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 2 of 7 See accompanying article on page 26	Bio-Logics (a St. John company) Steve McDermott, sem@biologicsinc.com 7918 South 1530 West West Jordan, UT 84088 801-561-9200, www.biologicsinc.com	Bridge Medical Inc. (Cerner) Grant Frazier, gfrazier@bridgemedical.com 120 S. Sierra Ave. Solana Beach, CA 92075 858-350-0100, www.bridgemedical.com
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	Identi-Match 1, 2, & 3, Identi-Print 1 & 2, Identi-Scan	MedPoint-MedAdmin, MedPoint-Specimen, MedPoint-Transfusion
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	—	—
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	1973	1998
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	2005	2005
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	~200	24
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	0	n/a
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	~20	4
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	~250	45
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	ID card with or without a photograph	fingerprint
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, patient data or blood No. is printed directly from the patient's ID band	one-dimensional bar-code wristband
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	n/a	n/a
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	n/a	n/a
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	patient name, patient medical record No.	patient account No., patient medical record No.
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube	bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube
Data elements encoded on specimen label	determined by customer	container ID, accession No., patient identifier, etc.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	ISBT 128, Codabar, Code 39A	Codabar, Code 128
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code	one-dimensional bar code
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	intended recipient	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	—	3 in W × 6 in H × 1.25 in D
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	—	11 oz
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	no communication, intermittent docking	real-time radio frequency
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	no	no
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	yes	no
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	no	no
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	no	no
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	uncertain	yes
Required interface(s)		
• Hospital information system interfaces	interface not required Cerner, Misys, Meditech	HIS and LIS Cerner, Meditech, McKesson, Siemens, others
• Laboratory information system interfaces	Cerner, Misys, Meditech	Misys, Cerner
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	0	—
• Single handheld workstation	\$25 to \$1,500	—
• Information system interface	client dependent	—
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• systems range from a stand-alone blood bank or emergency department patient and sample labeling system to fully integrated, hospitalwide patient ID systems • provide patient ID systems for plastic card-based and label-based admitting systems • in-service training program to ensure smooth product implementation	• displays ISMP high-risk drug alerts, such as look-alike and sound-alike warnings, and maximum daily dose warnings • age- and weight-based checking for specialty populations, such as pediatrics and geriatrics • displays medication-specific, pharmacist-controlled formulary comments

Tabulation does not represent an endorsement by the College of American Pathologists

Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 3 of 7	Care Fusion Robert Finizio, robertf@carefusion.com 1430 Spring Hill Rd., Suite 510 McLean, VA 22102 703-714-0730 ext 226, www.carefusion.com	Cerner Corp. Angela Betts, abetts@cerner.com 2800 Rockcreek Parkway Kansas City, MO 64117 816-201-2771, www.cerner.com
See accompanying article on page 26		
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	wCareMed, wCareView, wCareCollect, wBloodCare, wCareAssist, wCareCapture	Cerner Millennium Handheld Specimen Collections and Power POC
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	—	—
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	2002	1992
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	2005	2005
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	30+	42
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	1	0
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	—	10
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	30+	55
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	n/a	n/a
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, passive radio-frequency identification, active radio-frequency identification, picture, date of birth, medical record No., bed, location, etc.	one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	wristband	—
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	—	—
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	n/a	—
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube; peel-off label removed from wristband; radio-frequency tag printed centrally, added to tube; radio-frequency tag printed at bedside, applied to tube	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube
Data elements encoded on specimen label	60+ data elements, including test type, order No., patient location, tube color, time label was printed, etc.	accession No., patient No.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record	n/a
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	two-dimensional, ISBT 128, Codabar, others	—
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification	—
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification, RSS (reduced space symbology), Aztec
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	—	varies
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	11 oz	16 oz–26 oz
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	real-time radio frequency	intermittent docking, real-time radio frequency, specified protocol
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	uncertain	no
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	yes	no
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	yes	no
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	—	no
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	—	yes
Required interface(s)	HIS and LIS	interface not required
• Hospital information system interfaces	Cerner, Misys, Wyndgate, Medware, Vista, CPRS, Meditech, Siemens, MS Meds, Citation, others	n/a
• Laboratory information system interfaces	Cerner, Misys, Wyndgate, Medware, Vista, CPRS, Meditech, Siemens, MS Meds, Citation, others	n/a
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	—	—
• Single handheld workstation	—	—
• Information system interface	—	—
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• solutions are designed by health care providers to be intuitive, easy to use, and blend seamlessly with clinical processes • product suite designed for easy expansion • all applications are accessible from one highly portable handheld or tablet device	• full integration with Cerner PathNet LIS—no interfaces or redundant database needed • specimen label bar codes are compatible with all medical device and robotics interfaces • real-time display of active patient orders at point-of-care

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Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 4 of 7	Digi-Trax Corp. John Kling, jkling@digi-trax.com 650 Heathrow Drive Lincolnshire, IL 60069 800-356-6126, www.digi-trax.com	Korchek Technologies Gregory Francis, greg@korchek.com 30 Treeland Rd. Shelton, CT 06484 203-944-9556/877-567-2435, www.korchek.com
See accompanying article on page 26		
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	—	CareChek
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	HemaTrax ID for Transfusion	—
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	1996	2005
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	2005	2005
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	all Veterans Administration hospitals	1
No. of contracts for foreign sites where syst./product is installed, operational	—	0
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	40	1
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	300	1
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	ID card with or without a photograph	—
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, passive radio-frequency identification, active radio-frequency identification	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	wristbands	n/a
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	11 in × 1¼ in	n/a
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	patient name, medical record No., patient ID No.	n/a
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	peel-off label removed from wristband	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube; bar-code label placed on tube in tube manufacturing process; peel-off label removed from wristband
Data elements encoded on specimen label	—	specimen/accession No.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	—	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	two-dimensional, ISBT 128, Codabar	ISBT 128, Codabar
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification	one-dimensional bar code
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	—	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration
Techniques used to read labels on medications	—	one-dimensional bar code
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	—	3 in × 5 in × 1 in
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	—	14 oz
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	—	HL7
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	no	no
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	yes	no
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	no	no
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	no	yes
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	no	n/a
Required interface(s)	HIS	interface not required
• Hospital information system interfaces	Meditech, Epic, Eclipsys, Siemens	—
• Laboratory information system interfaces	Meditech, Mediware, Wyndgate, Systec, McKesson	—
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	—	based on No. of handhelds
• Single handheld workstation	—	~\$3,500
• Information system interface	—	included
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• allows for decentralized admitting by printing wristbands at any location in hospital as well as transfusion area	• standard HL7 interface • specimen verification • ease of use
		See “Newsbytes,” page 90, for information on CareChek Tx, Korchek’s latest patient identification system module to receive FDA clearance.

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Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 5 of 7	Lattice Inc. Peter Muzzy, peter.muzzy@lattice.com 1751 S. Naperville Rd. Wheaton, IL 60187 630-949-3250, www.lattice.com	McKesson Stacy Block, stacy.block@mckesson.com 5995 Windward Parkway Alpharetta, GA 30005
See accompanying article on page 26		
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	MediCopia	Horizon MobileCare Phlebotomy
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	—	—
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	1996	2003
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	2005	2005
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	9	3
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	0	0
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	7	~20
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	12	3
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	—	n/a
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, passive radio-frequency identification	one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	—	—
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	—	—
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	—	—
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion	general laboratory specimen collection
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube
Data elements encoded on specimen label	determined by each hospital	patient ID No., patient location, accession No., specimen type, container type, etc.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record	—
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	two-dimensional, ISBT 128, Codabar	—
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification	—
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration	—
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code	—
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	1 in H × 3 in W × 6 in L	1.3 in H × 3.1 in W × 5.7 in L
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	11 oz	10.8 oz
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	intermittent docking, real-time radio frequency, specified protocol	specified protocol
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	no	no
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	no	no
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	no	n/a
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	yes	no
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	—	no
Required interface(s)	HIS and LIS	LIS
• Hospital information system interfaces	IDX, Siemens, Meditech, Keane, First Coast, McKesson, TDS, KPDS	n/a
• Laboratory information system interfaces	GE, SCC, Meditech, Cerner, Misys, McKesson	McKesson
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	based on No. of licensed beds	—
• Single handheld workstation	based on No. of caregivers	\$4,000
• Information system interface	based on which system is being interfaced	—
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• system maintains data (encrypted with DES3) on the mobile computer • if a hospital moves to another LIS, the only change required is deployment of an interface to the new LIS • a robust platform for the deployment of additional applications	• integrated with Horizon Lab LIS • wireless • integration with Horizon Admin-Rx for medication administration on the same handheld device

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Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 6 of 7	Precision Dynamics Corp. Paula Moggio, paulam@pdcorp.com 13880 Del Sur St. San Fernando, CA 91340 818-897-1111, www.pdcorp.com	Precision Dynamics Corp. Paula Moggio, paulam@pdcorp.com 13880 Del Sur St. San Fernando, CA 91340 818-897-1111, www.pdcorp.com
See accompanying article on page 26		
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	—	—
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	bar-code wristbands (many types)	Smart Band RFID wristbands
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	—	2003
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	—	—
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	—	—
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	—	—
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	—	—
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	—	4
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	ID card with or without a photograph	—
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, passive radio-frequency identification	passive radio-frequency identification
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient	—	wristband
• Approximate dimensions of RFID tag	—	1 in × 1 in
• Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	hospital-specific but can include patient name, medical No., physician name, allergies, blood type, etc.	hospital-specific but can include patient name, medical No., physician name, allergies, blood type, etc.
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube	radio-frequency tag printed centrally, added to tube; radio-frequency tag printed at bedside, applied to tube
Data elements encoded on specimen label	patient name, specimen type, date, patient medical No., etc.	patient name, specimen type, date, patient medical No., etc.
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	two-dimensional	radio-frequency identification
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code	radio-frequency identification (RFID label on bag)
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code, two-dimensional bar code, radio-frequency identification	radio-frequency identification
Handheld workstations		
• Approximate size of handheld workstation	—	—
• Approximate weight of handheld workstation	—	—
• How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	—	—
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs?	no	yes
Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	no	yes
FDA 510(k) approval		
• Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved?	—	—
• Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval?	—	—
• Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	—	—
Required interface(s)	HIS and LIS	HIS and LIS
• Hospital information system interfaces	—	—
• Laboratory information system interfaces	—	—
Cost		
• General license fee per facility	—	—
• Single handheld workstation	—	—
• Information system interface	—	—
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• introduced patient bar-code wristbands 20 years ago and continue to pave the path for auto ID wristband solutions	• introduced patient bar-code wristbands 20 years ago and continue to pave the path for auto ID wristband solutions

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Positive patient identification systems and products

Part 7 of 7 See accompanying article on page 26	The St. John Companies Adam Preisach, apreisach@stjohninc.com 25167 Anza Drive Valencia, CA 91355 800-435-4242, www.stjohninc.com	Zebra Technologies Debbie Murphy, dhmurphy@zebra.com 333 Corporate Woods Parkway Vernon Hills, IL 60061 847-793-2600, 800-426-0442, www.zebra.com
Name of positive patient ID hardware/software system	—	—
Name of positive patient ID product (wristbands, etc.)	Conf-ID-ent	Z-Band wristbands
First ever installation of positive patient ID system/product	2001	~1986
Most recent installation of positive patient ID system/product	2005	—
No. of contracts for U.S. sites where system/product is installed, operational	400	unknown †
No. of contracts for foreign sites where system/product is installed, operational	0	unknown †
No. of contracts signed since July 1, 2004	100	unknown †
No. of facilities where system/product is installed and operational	500	unknown †
Techniques to verify patient ID when creating a wristband on admission	ID card with or without a photograph	ID card with or without a photograph, fingerprint
Techniques for patient ID prior to each intervention/specimen collection	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, visual verification	ID card or other biometric technique, one-dimensional bar-code wristband, two-dimensional bar-code wristband, passive radio-frequency identification, others
• How RFID tag is affixed to patient • Approximate dimensions of RFID tag • Data fields on RFID tag or wristband	n/a n/a patient name, patient medical record No., etc.	on patient wristband or on adhesive label at surgery site as small as ¼ in × 1 in depends on the software used
System functionality	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration	general laboratory specimen collection, patient and blood unit matching prior to blood transfusion, patient and medication matching prior to medication administration
Techniques for specimen identification at the time of specimen collection	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; peel-off label removed from wristband	bar-code label printed centrally, added to tube; bar-code label printed at bedside, applied to tube; radio-frequency tag printed centrally, added to tube; radio-frequency tag printed at bedside, applied to tube
Data elements encoded on specimen label	user defined	any amount of data can be specified
Bedside technology for blood transfusion offered via positive patient ID system/product	detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of transfusion data, documentation of final transfusion record	verification that a physician order is on record for the transfusion, verification of informed patient consent, detection of potential mistransfusion, documentation of final transfusion record
Symbology that system/product accepts for bedside transfusion	two-dimensional, ISBT 128, Codabar, Code 39A	two-dimensional, ISBT 128, Codabar
Techniques for reading labels on blood units	one-dimensional bar code	—
Medication tracking offered via positive patient ID system/product	intended recipient	order for medication, intended recipient, history of allergies, correct dosage, route of administration, rate of administration
Techniques used to read labels on medications	one-dimensional bar code	—
Handheld workstations • Approximate size of handheld workstation • Approximate weight of handheld workstation • How handheld workstation communicates with host LIS	n/a — —	— — —
Is system/product designed to be used with EKGs? Is system/product designed to be used with glucometers/other POC testing devices?	no yes	no uncertain
FDA 510(k) approval • Is positive patient ID system/product FDA 510(k) approved? • Have applied for, but not yet received, FDA 510(k) approval? • Intend to apply for FDA 510(k) approval?	no no uncertain	no no no
Required interface(s) • Hospital information system interfaces • Laboratory information system interfaces	interface not required Cerner, Meditech, Siemens, Misys Cerner, Siemens, Misys	interface not required (but typically is connected) — † — †
Cost • General license fee per facility • Single handheld workstation • Information system interface	0 — \$2,500	n/a n/a n/a
Distinguishing features (supplied by vendor)	• clear laminate allows for high scan rates • durable—lamination protects patient information and can be wiped clean • bands can be printed to directly by any laser or ink jet printer	• extreme ruggedness and reliability of products • advanced wireless and mobile security offerings (WPA, VPN, etc.) • widest range of printers and compatible specialty supplies developed for health care market
†sell products through health care integrators		

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Printers/labels for positive patient identification

Company contact information	Product(s) for positive patient ID	Year company entered market	Percentage of customer base		Product reseller?	Brand name		Distinguishing characteristics of printers and labels
			in U.S.	outside U.S.	For which companies?	of printers	brand name of labels	
AMT Datasouth Corp. Kim Stovall, kstovall@amtdatasouth.com 4765 Calle Quetzal, Camarillo, CA 93012 800-215-9192 ext. 129, www.amtdatasouth.com	printers and labels	1990	90%	10%	No	Fastmark	n/a	compatible with all software platforms; can be programmed to add bar codes even if software does not support bar coding
Becton, Dickinson and Company Dana Cogan, dana_cogan@bd.com 1 Becton Drive MC 314, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 800-595-0257, www.bd.com/bdid	printers and labels	1997	100%	0	No	BD.id 4600, C200, Z3844S, Z2844, QL220	BD.id Patient Identification System for Admissions and Labeling	Printers: accept different, multiple, data streams and reprogrammed easily; modify the label format, size, position, and content of the information; print a direct thermal or thermal transfer label Labels: small size bar code is ideal for use on microscope slides
Bio-Logics (a St. John company) Steve McDermott, sem@biologicsinc.com 7918 South 1530 West, West Jordan, UT 84088 801-561-9200, www.biologicsinc.com	printers and labels	1997	100%	0	No	Bio-Logics	Bio-Logics	Printers: maintenance free; portable and wall-mountable; easy to sterilize; 10-year warranty Labels: self-imaging labels
Cognitive Solutions Inc. Angela Mansfield, angela.mansfield@cognitive.com 4403 Table Mountain Drive, Suite A Golden, CO 80403 303-273-1400, www.cognitive.com	printers and labels	1986	80%	20%	No	Advantage LX, Advantage RFID, Code Range	no brand name	Printers: small footprint; high performance; all-metal mechanism for added durability and reliability; media roll guide for wristband label production; large memory; label design software for easy label configuration Labels: price; availability
DataRay Inc. Pamela J. Millican, pamelam@datarayusa.com 1141 S.E. Grand Blvd., Suite 105 Oklahoma City, OK 73129 405-677-5317, www.datarayusa.com	printers and labels	—	97%	3%	No	DataRay	DataRay	Printers: thermal and wristband printers designed as plug-and-play with hospital's internal systems
Digi-Trax Corp. John Kling, jkling@digi-trax.com 650 Heathrow Drive, Lincolnshire, IL 60069 800-356-6126, www.digi-trax.com	printers and labels	1986	90%	10%	Yes (for printers) Cognitive Solutions, Zebra, Sato	Advantage LX	Lab-Tuf	Printers: ability to print Aztec, Data Matrix, and internal Ethernet Labels: xylene resistant; withstand liquid nitrogen
General Data Company Inc. Ralph Moher, moher@general-data.com 4354 Ferguson Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45245 800-733-5252, www.general-data.com/healthcare	printers and labels	1985	90%	10%	No	StainerShield	StainerShield	Printers: 600 dpi; direct thermal; small footprint; easy to load; antimicrobial coating; ideal for lab bench or desktop Labels: highly resistant to solvents and stains; simple direct thermal printing; no printer ribbon or overlaminated flap
Korchek Technologies Gregory Francis, greg@korchek.com 30 Treeland Rd., Shelton, CT 06484 877-567-2435, www.korchek.com	printers and labels	2005	100%		Yes Printers: Zebra Labels: multiple vendors	—	—	—
Peak Technologies Craig Fleischmann, craig.fleischmann@peaktech.com 9200 Berger Rd., Columbia, MD 21046 800-458-7772 ext. 5109, www.peaktech.com	printers and labels	1995	75%	25%	Yes Printers: Zebra, Intermec, Printronix, Kyocera Labels: Peak, Zebra, Intermec, limak, others	—	—	Labels: can withstand chemical wash, autoclaves, severe cold, extreme high temperatures, bleaching, other environments
The St. John Companies Adam Preisach, apreisach@stjohninc.com 25167 Anza Drive, Valencia, CA 91355 661-257-0233 ext. 245/800-435-4242 www.stjohninc.com	printers and labels	2001	100%	0	Yes (for printers) Zebra, others	—	St. John	Labels: direct thermal, thermal transfer, laser, piggy back, chemical resistant; any color or color border available; permanent or removable adhesive, cold temperature and freezer-grade adhesive
Zebra Technologies Corp. Debbie Murphy, dhmurphy@zebra.com 333 Corporate Woods Parkway Vernon Hills, IL 60061-3109 847-793-2600/800-426-0442, www.zebra.com	printers and labels	1985	54%	46%	No Zebra markets its products through its authorized health care partners	Zebra	Zebra	Printers: extreme ruggedness and reliability; wireless and mobile security offerings (WPA, VPN, etc.); wide range of printers, from mobile and desktop to high-performance industrial models, including RFID printing/encoding Labels: extreme high- and low-temperature resistance; glove compatible; infrared viewable; adheres to glass; can be sterilized; extreme resistance to smearing, abrasion, blood, and solvents; latex-free wristbands

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