



Case study

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals, an autonomous business unit of Moorfields Eye Hospital, implements GS1 bar codes to uniquely identify its medicines and improve the efficiency of its manufacturing operations.

Introduction

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals have implemented GS1 UK standards for their new bar coding system to uniquely identify its medicines. This process was implemented following growing demand for bar coded products by their customers who include retail and community pharmacies, hospitals and veterinaries.

The pharmaceutical manufacturing organisation specialises in the manufacture and development of sterile liquid products and Ophthalmic Specials products, which are prescribed by doctors and pharmacists. Moorfields manufacture 'Specials', such as off licensed eye drops and solutions, to meet a named patient's exceptional requirement when no licensed product is available to fit their needs.

The implementation

Bar codes using GS1 standards will help their customers to facilitate the use of automated dispensing and ordering processes, improve stock control and match patient records to the right medication. Moorfields Pharmaceuticals will also benefit from a more efficient and automated process with the full use of the system. The standardised system will help remove the risk of mismatched information.





With over 100 product lines serving 3,000 customers, Moorfields Pharmaceuticals managed to implement their standardised bar coding system within six months.

The organisation had previously packaged their products in plain, white, labelled cartons. However, customer demand for more accurate identification led to a complete re-design of the packaging across all product lines, incorporating a colour-coded system and a standard GS1 bar code printed on the carton. The new packaging has been modernised to look more professional and commercial and can also be used in robotic dispensing systems, which require bar codes. It includes EAN-13 bar codes and the pharmaceutical code which is used for Moorfield's internal security checks.

"What the project has done is improved significantly the efficiency of our manufacturing operations," says Nick Precious, Technical Director, Moorfields Pharmaceuticals. "Previously this was a multi-stage process but we can now do all that using two connected machines working together. So apart from meeting the needs of our customers, bar coding our products has made us more efficient by significantly reducing the labelling time during manufacturing process."

Conclusion

Moorfields Pharmaceuticals have met the current needs of their customers with their GS1 standardised bar coding system. The organisation has implemented the system to help their customers guarantee that patients are getting the right medication, at the right time, in the right dose, via the right route thus improving patient safety.

Moorfields also hope to benefit from an increase in business prospects and positive feedback from their customers with their new system. The pharmaceuticals manufacturer is hoping to further implement GS1 bar codes within different application areas in the future. Moorfields may consider applying smaller bar codes to their injections and improve their efficiency by using the bar coding system in-house to remove redundant steps in their processes such as duo checking.

Patient safety is currently at the top of the agenda for the NHS following the Department of Health's decision to recommend GS1 standards. Hospitals are under increasing pressure to automate their processes in order to reduce the chance of human error and increase efficiency. GS1 UK has provided on going support to Moorfields Pharmaceuticals to help them get the most out of bar codes, not just for their customers but to increase efficiencies in their own internal processes too.

