



A HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON REDUCING MEDICATION ERROR IN HOSPITAL PRACTICE

Workshop groups will be asked to reflect on the morning presentations and hospital tour, and provide feedback on some key outstanding areas of discussion on the issue of bedside scanning, prevention of medication error and bar coding medicines to the single unit. Workshop groups are asked to present the key results of their discussion to fellow attendees at the end of the workshop session.

Results from workshop discussions will be used within a summary report of the day's meeting, and a report of the meeting to be submitted to the European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy.

SOME GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR WORKSHOP GROUPS

- 1) Does bedside scanning of medicines represent a major contribution to patient safety by preventing medication error? Do workshop members have any key comments or feedback on this point?
- 2) If we agree with (1) above, do we all also agree, that stakeholders in the medicines use process, with ethical responsibilities for patient welfare, should work together to see bedside scanning become a standard feature in European hospital care?
- 3) Who are the stakeholders in the medicines use process in the hospital context, what are the extent of their ethical responsibilities for patient welfare in relation to facilitating bedside scanning, and in what form might they work together on achieving greater uptake of bedside scanning?
- 4) What do the workshop group members feel are the major obstacles to achieving bedside scanning and in what order of scale would they place these obstacles?
- 5) Is a regulation at a national and/or European level that mandates bar codes be placed on the single unit of medicine at the point of manufacture required in order to achieve widespread uptake of bedside scanning in Europe?
- 6) Is the experience of the USA in relation to bedside scanning (i.e. its practice being recognised as desirable by the FDA and supported subsequently by national regulation) transferable to the European context? Are there complications that should be recognized?
- 7) What would be a realistic timescale for achieving medicines bar coded to the single unit in Europe?
- 8) Any other comments, thoughts or feedback workshop group members would like included in a report of today's meeting and within considerations of 'next steps'.