Using barcoding infrastructure to add value

MAY 2022

Why look at added value of barcoding infrastructure?

▶ Pharmacies, hospitals, wholesalers and pharma companies have applied considerable time and funding to implementing barcoding infrastructure to comply with FMD

▶ Tangible benefits of this investment not immediately clear as system is intended primarily as deterrent and very few falsified medicines will ever be detected

▶ Huge amount of interest in possibilities across Europe and actual examples of projects underway

Examples of initiatives in Ireland

▶ **TrackVax**: The HSE worked with GS1 Ireland to adopt a GS1 standards-based approach for the identification and tracking of vaccines to the point of vaccination in more than 40 vaccination centres

▶ Maeve Magner MPSI presented at an IMVO webinar in April 2021 on how **TCP Pharmaceuticals** uses barcode scanning for end-to-end tracking of packs, logging dispensed item against scripts, recording pharmacist check of dispensed items, loading of orders into vans, etc.

▶ Barcodes are used by **National Haemophilia Service** to track blood products to patient level (managed by TCP) – more details available here and in Maeve Magner's slides referred to above

Examples of initiatives in Europe

▶ **Norwegian project to streamline recalls**

  ▶ Concept is that instead of pharmacy/hospital returning recalled packs to wholesaler, they decommission the recalled packs as 'destroyed', arrange to have them destroyed and send list of destroyed packs to wholesalers for credit

▶ **[Platinea](#) (Sweden)**

  ▶ Multisectoral collaboration platform to preserve and enhance the value of existing antibiotics. Looking at possibility of using aggregated data from EMVS/SMVS to monitor early signals of upcoming shortages of important antibiotics

▶ **[Scan4Safety](#) project in UK NHS –** 'Right Patient, Right Product, Right Place, Right Process'

▶ European Medicines Agency has approached EMVO about potential use of EMVS to support activity relating to **medicines shortages**
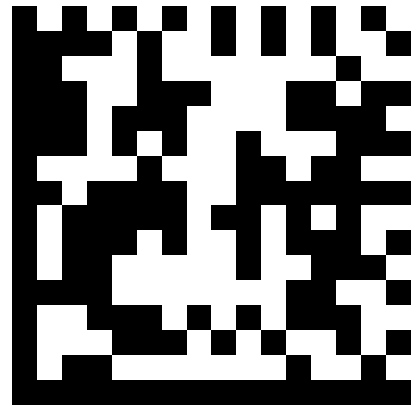
Other possibilities

▶ Scanning to check PMR versus pick item to reduce dispensing errors

▶ Management of pharmacy level product recalls

▶ Management of expired medicines

▶ Management of stock levels and inventory:

  ▶ Scanning of orders into stock provides live stock levels, wholesale order validation, management of FMD errors at source and accurate logging of parallel imports into inventory (required for compliant claiming with the PCRS)

  ▶ Live stock levels help manage inventory levels and reduce holding excess stock

▶ Digital management of borrowing between pharmacies - scanning logs the details of what was loaned to another pharmacy and when. Eliminates paper-based records and ensure all loans are recovered

IMVO study to explore added value

▶ IMVO has commissioned Grant Thornton to do study on added value

▶ Objectives:

   ▶ To review how the barcoding infrastructure could be used for purposes other than FMD

   ▶ To examine what is possible:

      1. Using currently available information and functionality

      2. If extra functionality was added into end-user FMD software

      3. If extra functionality was added into the IMVS, e.g. e-PIL

   ▶ To assess the benefits – financial and otherwise – this could bring to pharmacies, wholesalers, MAHs, IMVO members, payers and patients

   ▶ To propose activities for pilot in Ireland, subject to agreement of the relevant stakeholders

IMVO study to explore added value (ctd)

▶ Final report will be available over the summer

▶ Next steps:

  ▶ Conference to launch report and mark end of use and learn

  ▶ Work with stakeholders to progress pilot projects, identifying where this could be done in conjunction with other like-minded NMVOs and EMVO

▶ Looking for volunteers for Steering Committee set up to provide guidance and support for this activity – if interested, please get in touch

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