How do you know whether your products comply?

It is likely that the manufacturer for your products already uses a standard barcode for your products. HIBCC AU provides a basic assessment of compliance to its members by visiting your warehouse and scanning a sample of your products to confirm conformance to the standards. We can also undertake a thorough and professional assessment for an agreed additional fee, should this be required.
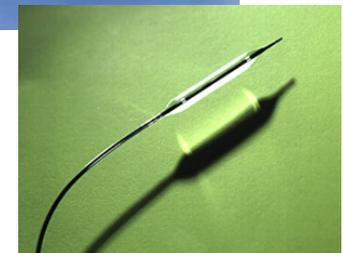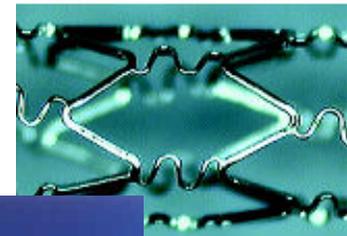
Five-step compliance checklist

1. *Do your products include a standard barcode for product ID and secondary data?*

2. *Have you undertaken an audit of your products to determine level of compliance (i.e. do all the products you distribute comply with the standards)?*

3. *If your products do appear to comply with a standard, have you checked to see if the standards have been correctly applied to your products?*

4. *Do you have a comprehensive product database that references the UPN (or barcode) for your products, and is this database regularly maintained to include changes and updates?*

5. **If you don't know the answer to any of the above, call HIBCC AU today for a professional assessment.**

MEDICAL DEVICES

Implementing & Conforming to Product Identification Standards

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It all starts with a simple barcode

The benefits of barcode scanning to automate the capture of product consumption is well understood in the grocery industry. Every supermarket, small and large, relies on barcode scanning to more efficiently and accurately create purchase transactions. With the simple act of scanning a barcode:

* Product is accurately identified, with the applicable price and any GST component included

* Product is added to the customers purchase

* General ledger is updated to reflect sale made

* Store inventory is updated to reflect purchased goods

So why should it be any different in healthcare for medical devices?

Implementing barcode scanning applications in surgery for example, allows the following processes to occur with the simple act of scanning a product barcode:

* Accurately identify the product

* Add the product to the patient record

* Update inventory and create replenishment order

* For consignment stock, create the purchase order for the consumed item.

* Include product and relevant rebate codes in hospital claims for health insurance

* Update Financial Management Information System

In Australia today, many hospitals are implementing projects to scan barcodes on implants and other products used in high cost procedure areas within hospitals, and are reaping the rewards.

Importance of standardisation

Barcode (or product identification) standards are essential to the success of barcode scanning applications, since it guarantees:

* Unique and unambiguous identification of a product

* Compatibility with information systems, and ability for these systems to interpret the barcodes

What are the accepted standards in healthcare?

There are two accepted standards in Australian healthcare for medical devices. They are the Health Industry Bar Code (HIBC) standard and the EAN 128 standard. Collectively, these standards are known as the Universal Product Number (UPN).

For medical devices that require lot number traceability, barcodes should consist of two components:

* Product identification (product ID)

* Secondary data (or control data)

Product identification barcodes uniquely and unambiguously identify products, whilst secondary data allows manufacturers to encode lot or serial numbers, expiry date, and quantity information.

What happens if products don't comply with a standard barcode?

Non compliance by manufacturers to a product ID standard creates difficulties for scanning applications within hospitals designed to streamline the supply chain from consumption to replenishment and payment.

Products that do not comply to a standard, cannot be accurately identified by scanning applications, compromising the integrity of these implementations.

What about product data?

Labeling your products with a standard barcode is the first step towards compliance. However, this alone is not sufficient to ensure that barcode scanning applications are successful. You will also need to create and maintain product master data that references the UPN (or barcode) of your products, so that in barcode scanning applications, you product is recognised when scanned.

HIBCC AU assists suppliers to create, manage and maintain your product data, by providing the UPN Repository Service.