BARCOM
We Make IT Work.

TRACK-AND-TRACE TECHNOLOGY:

+ A GUIDE FOR HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES

Since the onset of the pandemic, healthcare providers have been on the front lines "caring for patients, comforting families and protecting communities."

They also have been on the leading edge of technology adoption. Practically overnight, hospitals and doctor's offices pivoted from in-person visits to virtual consultations for non-emergency care, and they stepped up their investments in electronic health records, among other digital technologies.

"The future of health systems is digital," declares the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Trust Partnership in its 2021 Future of Healthcare Report. While the pandemic certainly accelerated the transition to digital healthcare, not all healthcare providers have fully embraced it yet. According to the HIMSS report, 47% of surveyed healthcare providers cited digital as a top organizational priority – *which means that more than half of the respondents aren't prioritizing digital.*

The inherent risks of manual, paper-based processes are magnified in a healthcare setting – particularly when it comes to tracking equipment, supplies and other critical assets. Poor inventory management not only undermines patient care and employee safety, but it also drives costs higher for hospitals and health systems – many of which operate on the thinnest of margins. Already facing unprecedented financial challenges due to the pandemic, healthcare providers can ill-afford to absorb the costs of lost, stolen or hoarded drugs, supplies and biological samples.

47% OF HEALTH SYSTEMS CITED DIGITAL AS A TOP ORGANIZATIONAL PRIORITY.

80% PLANNED TO INCREASE THEIR DIGITAL INVESTMENTS OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

PERILS OF PEN-AND-PAPER

Paper-based recordkeeping is prone to errors and inefficiencies that can be detrimental to patient care and operating margins. Here are a few of the problems it can create in healthcare organizations.
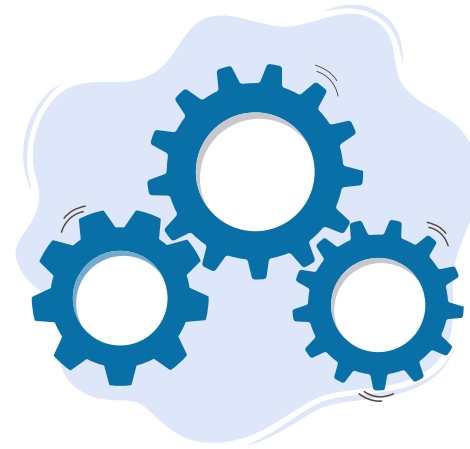
Supply Shortages

Without real-time visibility of inventory levels and asset locations, healthcare facilities can struggle with theft, missing/misplaced items and hoarding of equipment and supplies.

Longer Wait Times

Manual, paper-based asset tracking can make it harder to locate the right equipment and supplies, placing additional strain on personnel while keeping patients waiting longer for the care they need.

Equipment Malfunctions

Paper-on-clipboard maintenance records are easily lost or damaged, and prone to human error (such as entering the wrong date or serial number). Without reliable, real-time access to accurate service and maintenance information, it can be a struggle to keep equipment functioning properly.

Costly Errors

Communication breakdowns have been cited as a leading cause of medical errors. Mislabeled, improperly preserved or lost surgical specimens can lead to delays in diagnosis, incorrect treatment and redundant procedures.

BENEFITS OF DIGITAL TRACK-AND-TRACE SYSTEMS

App-based track-and-trace systems that leverage barcoding and RFID technologies and cloud-based software not only help healthcare providers automate their inventory management but also enable facilities to streamline much of their day-to-day operations.

Personnel use mobile computers or handheld readers to scan barcoded/tagged items when they interact with them, eliminating paper-on-clipboard asset tracking and generating a digital chain of custody for medications, protective equipment and other critical supplies. Scanned information immediately syncs with an organization's management software or central database, providing real-time, enterprisewide visibility of asset locations, assigned users, service histories and other key information.

THE KEY BENEFITS OF TRACK-AND-TRACE TECHNOLOGY FOR HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

1. Improved inventory management

2. Less loss, lower costs

3. Higher-quality patient care

HELPING HEALTHCARE

1.

Improved inventory management

Digital asset-tracking technology is an ideal solution for managing inventory in hospitals and other healthcare facilities. Scanning information digitally instead of recording it on paper dramatically improves inventory accuracy, and provides item-level visibility across the enterprise. Authorized users can track supplies and equipment on their mobile devices, and receive alerts when an item is almost out of stock – or when an item isn't where it should be. Workers can quickly sweep supply rooms using RFID sleds and handheld mobile computers to easily identify assets or conduct real-time inventory counts.

2.

Reduced costs

Managing inventory with a digital track-and-trace system minimizes costly human errors – such as misplacing or misidentifying assets – while extending the lifespan of expensive equipment through predictive maintenance. It also serves as a strong deterrent to hoarding and theft, as fixed RFID readers easily can track high-value assets. With real-time visibility into operations – supplies, equipment, personnel and patients – managers can leverage this insight to optimize scheduling, create more efficient workflows and maximize their limited resources.

"RFID HAS THE POTENTIAL TO SAVE [HEALTHCARE] ORGANIZATIONS TIME AND MONEY BY PROVIDING REAL-TIME TRACEABILITY, IDENTIFICATION, COMMUNICATION, TEMPERATURE AND LOCATION DATA FOR PEOPLE AND RESOURCES."

"The Benefits and Barriers to RFID Technology in Healthcare" – Online Journal of Nursing Informatics

77%
OF PATIENTS FELT POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR CLINICIAN USING A MOBILE DEVICE IN THEIR CARE.

3.

Higher-quality patient care

Track-and-trace systems that utilize barcode and RFID scanning can have a meaningful impact on the quality of patient care. Knowing the precise location and status of supplies and equipment helps ensure that these vital assets are available when patients need them, speeding up response times. Digitalizing and automating asset tracking and inventory management creates a connected ecosystem in which personnel can use mobile computers to collect and retrieve information at the point of care – and instantly share information with colleagues. This technology can boost patient safety as well. RFID-enabled wristbands effectively monitor patients' movements throughout a facility – preventing older patients with Alzheimer's or dementia from wandering offsite – while RFID ankle tags protect newborns from misidentification and abduction.

BARCOM + ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES

Transaction™ software from Barcom provides accurate, real-time tracking of equipment, supplies, personnel and patients in healthcare facilities. Paired with the TC52ax-HC mobile computer or ET40-HC tablet from Zebra Technologies, **Transaction™** streamlines the requisition process – minimizing the risk of human error and enabling real-time visibility of supply levels for better inventory management.

With the **Transaction™** mobile app, healthcare personnel are untethered from workstations, paper and clipboards. Workers use handheld mobile devices to scan barcoded or tagged items, instantly capturing key information about the item and adding to the asset's digital history. Scanned information immediately syncs with the organization's central database or management system. Personnel can also use their mobile devices to talk, text and share images with colleagues instantly and securely – fostering better communication and collaboration.

BARCOM
We Make IT Work.

CONTACT US TODAY to optimize workflows in your healthcare facility.

Phone: (423) 855-1822 | sales@barcominc.com
www.barcominc.com

WHY TRANSACTION™?

+ UNTETHERED MOBILITY
Manage inventory and daily tasks with user-friendly touchscreen devices designed for voice, data and network communications. Easily transfer assets when moving to a new room or office.

+ OPERATIONAL VISIBILITY
Gain visibility into operations and turn real-time data into actionable insights that streamline inventory management, optimize workflows and make patients and personnel safer.

+ COST EFFICIENCIES
Improve utilization rates and extend lifecycles of existing equipment. Prevent theft, reduce losses and quickly identify missing assets.

+ IMPROVED PATIENT CARE
Spend less time hunting for missing inventory or misplaced specimens and more time on patient care. Keep patients of all ages safe with RFID wristbands that positively identify them from admissions to discharge.

ZEBRA TC52AX-HC & ET40-HC

BARCOM'S TRANSACTION™ SOFTWARE IS DESIGNED TO AUTOMATE ASSET TRACKING AND INVENTORY MANAGEMENT IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES WHEN COMBINED WITH THE TC52AX-HC MOBILE COMPUTER AND THE ET40-HC TABLET FROM ZEBRA TECHNOLOGIES.

TC52AX-HC MOBILE COMPUTER

Improve quality of care with a fully functional mobile-powered workstation. The TC52ax-HC offers mobile voice and data, along with ability to quickly capture barcodes in any condition and orientation using healthcare safe illumination LEDs. In addition, Wi-Fi 6 connectivity offers faster Wi-Fi, support for more users and future proofing.

HOSPITAL TOUGH

To eliminate places where germs can hide, screw holes are covered and the number of crevices and seams have been minimized. Innovative clog-resistant audio grills prevent debris and disinfectants from entering the receiver, protecting audio quality. Advanced medical-grade plastics provide superior toughness, able to withstand frequent cleanings with a wide selection of disinfectants.

ET40-HC HEALTHCARE TABLET

The ET40-HC with Wi-Fi 6 wireless connectivity is designed for use inside healthcare facilities. Nurses can use the ET40-HC to access and update electronic health records, receive patient medical alarms and alerts, reach co-workers (from nurses and physicians to lab technicians and patient transport), call for immediate help, and more.

BETTER PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Inside waiting rooms, use the ET40-HC in the Presentation stand to create a self check-in kiosk. Bedside in patient rooms, the ET40-HC can enable patients to reach out directly to housekeeping and food service for non-emergency needs, allowing nurses to work at the top of their license. Patients can communicate an urgent need or concern to a nurse or place a dependable video call to visit with family. The tablets even can replace an in-room television, providing patients with access to movies, shows and news – and they can pair their own cordless Bluetooth headset to the tablet so as not to disturb other nearby patients.