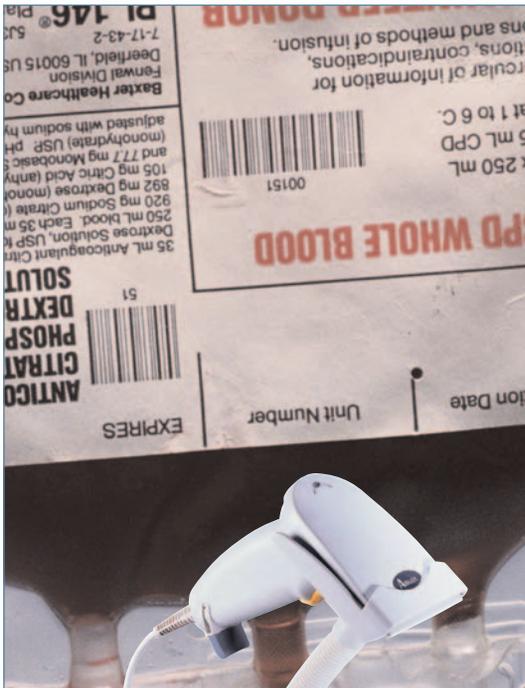


Spirit prescribes new scanners for Kingston Hospital

Barcodes are used widely throughout our hospitals, for an extensive and diverse range of applications. For instance, Kingston Hospital's Haematology Department uses barcodes for data that can be scanned into its Laboratory Information Management System. The hospital has recently upgraded its scanning system, having purchased new Argox barcode readers, recommended by Spirit Data Capture Limited.



Kingston Hospital is an acute general hospital with links to Kingston University. It serves a population of some 320,000 people in Kingston upon Thames, Esher, Richmond, Roehampton, Putney and other parts of South West London.

The hospital provides a comprehensive range of diagnostic and treatment services and has established a nationwide reputation for its innovative developments in healthcare – particularly in 'patient-focused' care and maternity services. ▶

Case Study

The Department of Haematology at Kingston had previously developed a barcode system for use with Clinisys, its computerised Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS). However, the system needed upgrading with new barcode scanners. Whilst looking on the Internet for possible suppliers, the hospital came across Spirit Data Capture, and approached the company for advice.

Frank Oliyide, who at the time was the Department's Chief BMS 3 Haematologist and also the Central Reception Manager, says: "We were looking for scanners that would be affordable and reliable. They also needed to be easy to use and durable."

Spirit recommended the Argox AS 8150 tethered barcode reader. This is a rugged and cost-effective long range CCD (charged coupled device) barcode reader. It has a much higher scan rate than a laser scanner, although it has a lower price tag. Other features include its high intensity aiming line and its ability to read barcodes from distances of up to 20 cm.

The Department of Haematology subsequently purchased over 20 of the Argox barcode readers. Frank comments: "The new devices are affordable and user-friendly scanners that are ideal for laboratory use. We use them to scan request forms into the LIMS system."

He explains: "We process about 2,000 samples per day, each of which comes in a sealed bag, attached to a request form. We check the patient's demographics and

that the tests requested match the samples sent. We then place a barcode onto the request form, and simultaneously place another (with identical numbers) onto the samples,

"The samples then go to the lab for analysis. Meanwhile, the forms are scanned and the data entered into the LIMS. When staff want to process the samples, they can scan the sample barcode and the request form will appear, showing the tests needed.

"Also, when the sample analysis is complete, the barcode readers can be used to scan the samples and enter the data into the sample tracker system. This defines or allocates a position for each sample so that its position within the thousands of samples we hold can be located very quickly."

He adds: "We have been using the Argox scanners for some time now, and they are excellent. I'm pleased to say that the staff who use them are also very happy with them. They are very cost-effective and accurate – indeed we have had a zero error rate since we started using them!"



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