



RFID helps a Beijing hospital realize delivery safety for special drugs

- Certificate of Merit winner in HK RFID Awards 2009



Peking University Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) in Beijing employs almost 4,000 staff, handling over 1.85 million outpatient and 48,000 inpatient cases in 2008. This project is in response to the compliance with the national mandate where the special and controlled drugs such as poisons, psychiatric medication and temperature sensitive agents in China have to be under close monitoring during the dispensing process.

The Solution

Schmidt developed a web-based, EPC compliant RFID system which consists of three main components, an RFID kiosk with a built-in RFID reader, RFID handheld devices and an alert system. With this system in place, the distribution route, drug status, handling persons and the duration can be clearly observed in the system.

Outcome

The security of the drug dispensing process has been improved at all stages. Controlled and special drugs are clearly and accurately identified as well as reconciled when pallets or cases of drugs pass through the RFID-enabled dock doors or are scanned by mobile RFID handhelds. The alert system will trigger an alarm (or an email or SMS) when the time taken to deliver medication has exceeded a predefined lead time. This alarm also hints at potential risks of drugs being misplaced, mishandled or stolen.

Objectives

The project aims at improving the visibility and traceability for the entire drug distribution process in a bid to ultimately improve patient safety and the overall supervision quality and standards.

Results

- Improve drugs and patients safety
- Provide visibility and traceability at each and all stages.
- Streamline workflow
- Provide pedigree data to trace back error sources.



Drugs items can be associated with pallets by simply driven through the RFID-enabled kiosk. Same kiosk can be used to reconcile discrepancies upon receiving and register the drug lists by the same "drive-thru" practice.

