

Selecting a Bar Code Reader



CR2500 and BH1

When implementing a Bar Coded Medication Administration solution, the key technology decision to be made is the selection of a bar code reader for use at point of care.

“There are over 200 known bar code symbologies in existence, but fewer than a dozen are common in the healthcare industry. With that said, the healthcare environment is seeing an increase in the types of symbologies on drug products, and this trend is expected to continue. Linear bar codes are relatively simple constructs of dark and light spaces of varying sizes. However, the sophistication of newer bar code symbologies, such as stacked linear, composite, and 2D bar codes that encode more data in less space, strongly supports the purchase of bar code imagers, rather than bar code scanners, for use with point-of-care systems.” †

Code readers are imagers that are quick and accurate in reading all bar code symbols, linear and two- dimensional, used by manufacturers of pharmaceutical and hospital consumable items.

The configurability, modular design, and superior bar code reading performance of Code’s bar code reader product lines make Code imagers a perfect fit for the healthcare industry.

Wired vs. Wireless Solutions

Wired solutions are attractive because of their lower per unit price, but the following critical areas should be examined before making the final decision between a wired and wireless solution:

- Cost of Implementation
- Ease of Implementation
- Accessories
- Patient Data Security
- Infection Control/Cleanliness
- Power Life of the Reader
- Physical Space Limitations
- Warranty and Service Plan Options

Cost of Implementation

A wireless solution has a higher per unit cost than a wired solution. However, fewer readers may be needed overall if choosing wireless, thereby reducing the overall implementation costs. Wireless readers can be assigned to multiple patient rooms while a cabled reader is dedicated to one patient room or computer on wheels.

Ease of Implementation

Code’s wired and wireless solutions can be easily integrated with any Health Information System. Wired solutions feature plug ‘n play functionality that minimizes the implementation process. Wireless solutions are easy to implement but do require additional steps to establish a wireless connection between a reader and host computer.

Accessories

Accessories for Code’s wireless readers include modems, handles, battery handles and protective covers.

Patient Data Security

Code's wired bar code readers electronically capture data and populate designated fields of a Health Information System while being cabled to a host computer. Wireless readers use Bluetooth® technology to transmit data.

'Pairing' a Code wireless reader to a CodeXML® modem is a proven, reliable method for replacing cables with secure wireless communication. CodeXML® modems feature 128-bit Bluetooth Authentication and Encryption, and sends data that won't interfere with WiFi networks. For an enhanced level of data security, Code offers a line of FIPS products. Code readers are the only bar code readers on the market to receive the Federal government's FIPS 140-2 Level 2 certification.

Power Life of the Reader




Wired bar code readers require a power draw from a computer on wheels. While Code's cabled readers draw power at a significantly slower rate than other bar code readers on the market, the power draw should still be considered when selecting a wired or wireless solution. Wireless readers do not consume power from a computer on wheels.

Physical Space Limitations

Cables for Code's wired bar code readers come in 6', 8' and 12' lengths. Therefore, the physical distance of the computer on wheels that the cabled reader is tethered to must be kept to a maximum of 12' from the patient. Wireless readers give users the flexibility in the physical placement of a host computer.

Warranty and Service Plan Options

CodeOne offers customers a variety of service and support options designed to make the most of your hardware investment. CodeOne service plans reduce support costs, provide comprehensive coverage, offers end-to-end support services, rapid turnaround time for repair and replacement units, and diagnostic evaluation of your bar code reader.

	CR1400	CR2500	CR4100
			
	The CR1400 is a compact, rugged, bar code reader that features a high performance scan engine, patented dual-field optical platform and intuitive targeting that makes reading 1D and 2D bar codes extremely fast, reliable, and more affordable than ever.	The CR2500 is the next generation in dual field optics bar code reading. The CR2500 decodes bar codes faster, and reads both wide linear and small 2D bar codes, even on hard to read surfaces. The CR2500 can be used with, or without a handle, as pictured above.	The CR4100 is the perfect combination of a leading edge 2D optical bar code reading platform and a high performance mobile computer. The PDA runs Windows® Mobile 6.5.1, and is compatible with the wide range of HIS software available today.
Features			
Can be integrated with all Health Information Systems	x	x	x
Reads 1D bar codes	x	x	x
Reads 2D bar codes	x	x	x
Disinfectant ready plastics	x	x	x
Anti-glare illumination technology	x	x	x
Vibration, Audible and LED 'good read' feedbacks	x	x	x
Wireless via Bluetooth®		x	x
WiFi			x
Cabled: USB or RS232	x	x	
Can be configured for presentation reading (stand needed)	x	x	
Walk-away prevention		x	
Removable battery		x	x
Optional handle		x	
Color Options	x		x
CodeOne Service Plan Options	x	x	x

† Douglas, Bruce A. "Bar Coded Medication Administration." *Pharmacy Purchasing Magazine*, October 2007
<http://www.pppmag.com/pp-p-october-2007-issue/bar-coded-medication-administration.html>



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