Implementing a Track & Trace System for Pharmaceuticals in Lebanon- **MediTrack**

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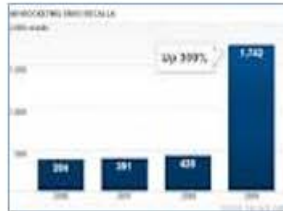National E-Health Program Director

MoPH – 2020

2D barcode: Main objectives
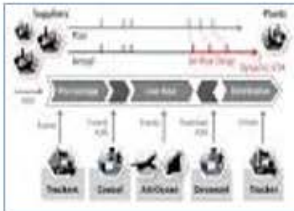
Supply Chain Visibility   **Product Protection**   **Recall Improvement**   **Returns, Shipment accuracy and efficiency**   **Reimbursement**

- ✓ Traceability across the supply chain
- ✓ Visibility and Protection from the point of manufacture to sale to the consumer.
- ✓ Patient Safety
- ✓ Reducing counterfeited and illegal drugs
- ✓ Fast recalls from the market
- ✓ Fast Reimbursement and fraud control at the third party payers

Functionalities of the 2D barcode System

✓ Product unique identification: GS1 2D Data Matrix barcode

✓ Product verification to ensure quality and reduce errors

✓ Track forward the movement of a product through specified stage(s) of the supply chain and trace backward its history

✓ Capture data at each point in the pharmaceutical supply chain and updating in real time the MoPH Database.

✓ Fast recall of a batch of pharmaceuticals from the Lebanese market and notifying all the concerned parties

Identify   **Verify**   **Track**   **Trace**   **Report**

Stakeholders

1. MoPH
2. Pharmaceutical Importers
3. Pharmaceutical Local Manufacturers
4. Drugs Warehouses/ wholesalers
5. Pharmacies
6. Hospitals (Pharmacies)
7. GS1-Lebanon
8. Third Party Payers (NSSF, Cooperative of Public Officers, Private Insurance Companies, others…)

System requirements

- The pharmaceutical companies must be equipped with the following:

➤ Personal Computer

➤ 2D barcode reader Scanners with imaging-based capabilities

➤ Internet connection

MediTrack updates following the Pilot

- Addition of the upload function for reception which facilitates users' experience and allows for better data management with minimized risk of error.

- Full management of the serial number (system can now recognize it when present and allow its management if required).

- Update to certain functions that prevented the system from recognizing some 2D barcodes.

- Full management and testing of the API function.

- Addition of the near expiry function which sends a notification to all relevant stakeholders when they have products near expiry.

- Updates to the reports section to meet the requirements of specific departments at MOPH.

MediTrack updates following the Pilot

- Update of all importers information after collection of required data (name, address, pharmacist in charge, email, and phone number).

- Update to the registered pharmaceuticals database through an updated API that reads the data from the website (list updated on the website with each exchange rate).

- Update of all collected GTINs to their relevant products.

Integration with Pharmacy software

- A compliance platform was developed to ensure successful integration with pharmacies software

- First trial was done with SoftPharm and was successful

- A sign up function for pharmacies upon first login was developed with a validation process.
  - Pharmacies have to upload a copy of their license which will be validated by MOPH.
  - Once approved, the user will receive a message with a username and password to access the database.

Implementation in the Service of Pharmacy

- Personnel at the service of pharmacy received several training session on the system.

- Training sessions were personalized based on the function of each person.

Workshops with inspectors

- A workshop was held at the ministry for all inspectors in Lebanon under the Inspection department of MOPH.

- The meeting included a brief presentation with a focus on the role of inspectors in the implementation process.

- The inspectors provided their contact information in order to receive regular updates and be notified of any changes regarding products entering the market.

Application forms updated

- Changes were made to several application forms submitted to the ministry including:
  - Import request
  - Import request for narcotics
  - Application for registration of a new product
  - Application for variation on a registered products
  - Marketing authorization form (AMM).

- An annex was also added to the import request which importers are required to fill and submit electronically to the e-Health department.

- This annex is filled and submitted during this transition phase until all importers are connected to the database and can update their data regularly.

ملحق رقم ١ جدول بمعلومات الأدوية المتعلقة بالباركود

Agent Name	Entry* Date	GTIN	Lot Number	Expiry Date	Serial Numbers	MOH Code	Product Name	Strength	Presentation	Dosage Form	Qty

*Entry Date: تاريخ دخول الأدوية إلى المستودع

Implementation at the Karantina warehouse

- In order to start the implementation in the Karantina warehouse, a meeting was held with the pharmacists at the warehouse.

- An assessment was done in order to optimize the process of receipt, storage, and delivery of products to the distribution center.

- An implementation plan was developed

Exemption and grace period

- We are constantly receiving letters and emails form local importers and foreign manufacturers requesting either full exemption or a grace period for the implementation of the 2D barcode.

- Exemptions were accepted for certain products that are considered OTC in their country of origin and for some products coming from countries where the 2D barcode is not required.

- As for the grace period requested, some were allowed to postpone the implementation of the 2D barcode on their products till December 2020 given appropriate documentation from the manufacturer with the reasons behind their request is provided.

- The issued memos are updated regularly, based on new requests submitted posted on website and shared with the inspectors.

Development of new Guidelines

- Guidelines on the implementation of the national barcode system for pharmaceuticals in Lebanon were developed and published on the website.

REPUBLIC OF LEBANO
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALT

Guidelines on the implementation of the National Bar Code System for Pharmaceuticals in Lebanon

Edited by Mrs. Lina Abou Mrad
Mrs. Christelle Fransawi & Mrs. Stephanie Rached

Edition 1 – 2020

New Regulations

- **قرار وزير رقم 1476 تاريخ 3/11/2020 يتعلّق بالبدء بالعمل على النظام المعلوماتي MediTrack من قبل مستوردي الأدوية وأصحاب المستودعات**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1242 تاريخ 18/9/2020 يتعلق باعتماد دليل تطبيق الباركود الثنائي الأبعاد على المستحضرات الصيدلانية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1253 تاريخ 18/9/2020 يتعلق بتطبيق الباكود الثنائي الأبعاد على اللقاحات**

- **مذكرة مدير عام رقم 16 تاريخ 7/2/2020 تتعلق بطلب معلومات من المؤسسات الصيدلانية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2648/1 تاريخ 24/12/2019 يتعلّق بتعديل نماذج الإستمارات لزوم تطبيق باركود الأدوية - ملحق رقم 1: جدول بمعلومات الأدوية المتعلقة بالباركود**

- **مذكرة رقم 132 تاريخ 24/12/2019 تتعلّق بتمديد الفترة الزمنية لتطبيق الباركود على بعض المستحضرات الصيدلانية**

- **مذكرة رقم 133 تاريخ 24/12/2019 تتعلق بإعفاء بعض المستحضرات الصيدلانية من تطبيق الباركود**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2291/1 تاريخ 7/11/2019 يتعلّق بطباعة تاريخ إنتهاء الصلاحية على عبوات الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1894/1 تاريخ 17/9/2019 يتعلّق بالتحضيرات اللازمة لتطبيق الباركود على الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1893/1 تاريخ 17/9/2019 يتعلق بتعديل نماذج الاستمارات لزوم تطبيق باركود الادوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2062 تاريخ 19/10/2018 يتعلق بتعديل الفترة الزمنية لتطبيق الباركود 2 D Matrix على الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1424 تاريخ 27/7/2018 يتعلق بالالتزام بتطبيق الباركود 2D Matrix على الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2429 تاريخ 14/12/2017 يتعلق بالإبلاغ عن رقم الـ GTIN للأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2428 تاريخ 14/12/2017 يتعلق بالخطة الزمنية لتطبيق الباركود الثنائي الأبعاد على الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 2405 تاريخ 11/12/2017 يتعلق باعتماد الباركود الثنائي الأبعاد على الأدوية**

- **قرار وزير رقم 1817 تاريخ 02/10/2017 يتعلق بتعديل القرار رقم 1/1432 والمتعلق بتأليف لجنة لدراسة تطبيق الباركود والموصفة الطبية الموحدة**

Challenges

- Unfortunately, due to the current Covid-19 outbreak and the lockdown in several countries, the implementation was delayed.

- Also, due to the current economic situation and problems with the transfer of funds, there is a delay in reception of old shipment not containing the 2D barcode.

- Due to Beirut blast on August 4 the implementation in Karantina warehouse was postponed

Next Step

- Go Live on MediTrack for importers/distributors

- Integrate MediTrack with pharmacies software

- Implementation in Primary Healthcare Centers (PHC)

For more info:

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https://www.moph.gov.lb/en/drugsbarcode

Thank You