



*To Unit of Use or Not Unit of  
Use... That is the Question for  
Munchkins  
Bedside Bar-coding Challenges*

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*Richard I. Sakai, PharmD, FASHP, FCSHP  
Children's Hospital Central California  
Madera, California*



## *Demographics*



- 255 Licensed Beds
- Pharmacy System – MediTech Version 5.5
- Dispensing System – McKesson RobotRx
- Automated Dispensing Machines – PYXIS System 2000
- Over wrap System – McKesson Repackager
- Repackager – Euclid Cadet
- TPN Compounder – BAXA System 2400
- Bedside Scanning - McKesson AdminRx
- Hospital Documentation – MediTech

*Unit-of-Use is NOT Unit Dose*  
*Which is Unit of Use?*

**Oral syringe**



**Tablet**



**IV Bag**



**IV Syringe**





## Unit of Use Philosophy



1. Patient Safety is the Goal
2. Reduces Calculation Errors by the RN
3. Ready to Use
4. Saves time for end user
5. Very labor intensive for the Pharmacy

## Which System is Best?

1. Avoid “Analysis Paralysis”
2. New Players Daily
3. Select two or three
4. RFI Process
5. Call current User from a list of users
6. Site Visits (bring RNs, IT, Rx)
7. Ask the hard questions from the end users
8. Make a choice, get the funding, get the help and start
9. There is not a single system that will do everything



## Challenges that keep me up at night

1. Available products with readable Bar Codes
2. Repackaging – weakest link – employee injuries
3. Outsource versus Internal
4. Software to support appropriate labeling and bar coding
5. USP797, USP795, JCAHO, DHS, State Board- Regulations and compliance
6. Best of Breed - Interface Issues



## Pitfalls to Avoid - Keep your Eyes and Ears Open



1. Emphasize Patient Safety
2. Organizational Commitment
  - Senior management
  - Dedicated resources both physical and financial
3. Prepare and Plan
4. Keep Everyone Informed

## The Six Lies

1. Interfaces are “No problem for us”
2. “It will save you time”
3. “This technology will last you *at least* 5 years”
4. “It is so simple - your staff won’t need a lot of training”
5. “You won’t need any additional help since implementation will be short and the software can generate all the QA reports you would ever want”
6. “It will be in our next version which will be out in a couple of months”

