



## *European Association of Hospital Pharmacists*

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### **Hospital Pharmacists highly concerned with patient safety stress the need for unit doses with bar codes**

***To improve patient's safety in drug therapy and to ensure the highest quality in medical treatment in European hospitals, the General Assembly of the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists, meeting in June 2007 declared that:***

- the production of single dose-packed drugs from the pharmaceutical industry.
- the mandatory inclusion of a barcode on each single dose.

are needed to ensure better medication safety.

Hospital pharmacists are calling on decision makers, politicians and national administrations to implement the introduction of bar-coded single dose-packed drugs in the national and European regulations.

A growing number of hospitals have implemented a unit dose dispensing system, with an individualised preparation of drugs, manually in the pharmacy, or with automated dispensing machines in the pharmacy or in the ward.

To improve the efficiency of these safer procedures hospital pharmacists urge the pharmaceutical industry to supply drugs packed in single-dose units.

Hospitals have or are implementing a computerised prescription system, which allows a final control just before the administration of drugs to patients, via a bar-code system contained in the singled dose pack. This final check performed electronically by comparing the prescription with the actual prepared drugs significantly increases the patient's safety, as the human controls are not without failure (performance ≈85%). These systems also improve the traceability up to the patient level, which is more and more requested by national regulations.

EAHP demands that primary packaging precisely describes the content of the drug up to final control at bedside, enables easy and safe use of the drug and provides protection against environmental influences such as light, moisture, pressure and microbial contamination during transport, handling and storage.

*For more details: contact EAHP Executive Director and consult the "Unit doses and bar codes needed for Patient Safety" position statement from EAHP*

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