NONCOMPLIANCE OF DATAMATRIX CODES, AN OBSTACLE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FALSIFIED MEDICINES DIRECTIVE

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Background

Our university hospital is equipped with an automated storage and dispensing system of drugs. Unfortunately, this automat is not able to read the totality of Datamatrix codes. This obliges us to store manually in the automat the products concerned, which increases the duration of receptions and the labour cost.

Purpose

We have identified:
- The medicines for which the datamatrix code cannot be read by the automaton
- The causes of this problem

Material and methods

Serialization is mandatory in Europe to reduce counterfeit drugs.

- A DataMatrix code in each secondary packaging to indicate an important number of traceability data in a little area.
- Technical characteristics defined in standard ISO/CEI 16022:2006

Results

Compilation of the products concerned by the impossibility of reading the codes, the laboratories involved and the causes of illegibility.

Number of references

- 1252 references are stored in our automat
- 2107 references need to be serialized

Conclusion

We have found only one cause of noncompliance:
- Probably because we did not receive all the medicines referenced during the mentioned period.

Other problems could be encountered like:
- too little Datamatrix codes
- shiny backgrounds

Change of reader heads of our automat is a solution but it represents an important investment.

This problem necessitate a collaboration between pharmacists, buyers, pharmaceutical laboratories and equipment manufacturers to encourage the industrials to standardize the datamatrix codes in order to facilitate the compliance with the Falsified Medicines Directive.

Keywords: organization and administration, supply and distribution, serialization

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