RFID 2008
9th and 10th December 2008
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Press release

Section: Applications
Keywords: RFID – Health - Réseaumatique

Wednesday 2nd July 2008

RFID 2008
When the RFID is placed at the service of Health!
RFID used to track transfusion products

Rfid applications have now entered the active deployment phase. Constantly increasing, they affect all areas of activity and lower materials costs have now made them the real alternative to barcodes. The health market is not an exception to this rule as illustrated by the example of the pilot scheme set up by Réseaumatique in the Pays de Loire region and which has been designed to track blood products.

The Réseaumatique company will be present at the RFID 2008 to be held at CNIT - Paris la Défense – on the 9th and 10th December 2008

Over recent years, Rfid related projects in the health market have proliferated in several areas: instrument sterilization and traceability, patient identification and monitoring, the fight against counterfeit medicines etc. In fact, this technology whose costs are constantly dropping, benefits from a number of advantages: end-to-end tracking, without any breaks in the information chain, paths stored to memory and reconstructed, highly diverse data management etc. The approach taken by the Établissement Français du Sang [*French Blood Establishment*] for the Pays de Loire region in partnership with Réseaumatique forms part of this logic. Its aim consists in ensuring an exhaustive reconstruction of the link between the blood donor and the recipient patient. In other words, ensuring an error free tracking of blood packs in order to increase transfusion safety. The project hopes to allocate an Rfid tag to each pack of blood collected and to track its path, as well as that of its by-products, right up to the patient. The first step in the project consisted in investigating the distribution of packed red blood cells by the Établissement Français du Sang, the transport of these products to Hospitals and Clinics and their dynamic and intelligent storage in these Healthcare Centres.

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«In addition to this tracking, Rfid chips are also used to record temperature curves throughout the process and thus ensure complete compliance with the cold chain and, therefore, guarantee product quality» explained Jean-Claude Mongrenier, Co-president of the ADC Group responsible for creating Réseaumatique.

Each RFID chip contains the biological status of the blood product (donor number, immuno-haematology data, incoming date and issue date etc.) and provides for more comprehensive, more frequent and more reliable control throughout the entire transfusion chain. When the blood product is delivered to a hospital establishment, the Établissement Français du Sang can, in remote mode and in real time, track the product via scanners placed in the intelligent storage containers and which are used to identify each individual blood pack.

In addition to enhanced security, the application of this solution is used to computerize the entire transfusion chain, to view packed red blood cell stocks in real time, to remotely re-allocate a blood pack to another patient and to rationalize blood product distribution while reducing costs.

In fact, the annual savings achieved in the pilot scheme region have been estimated at approximately 400,000 euros.

About Réseaumatique

The exhaustive and reliable reconstruction of the link between the donor and the recipient has become an essential element in product tracking used to reinforce transfusion safety. Through a range of international patents, the Réseaumatique Company, a specialist integrator of automatic identification solutions and RFID, has developed a Blood Product tracking system that allocates an electronic tag (RFID) to each pack, thus optimizing information flow between the EFS and Healthcare Establishments.

This application will generate world-wide spin-offs because all blood establishments are currently facing management and optimization problems affecting stocks of blood products. Stock levels are close to self-sufficiency limits, particularly in France but also in other countries. This situation makes stock management and tracking an even more sensitive issue. Pilot applications have been or are currently being run in France, Luxembourg, Russia and Malaysia. The first pilot scheme was put in place at the start of 2007.

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