

December 28, 2006

PURCHASING BAR CODE SCANNERS, WRISTBAND PRINTERS, AND WRISTBAND PRINT MEDIA FOR USE WITH BAR CODE CLINICAL APPLICATION SOFTWARE

1. PURPOSE: This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive defines the policy for submitting bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media for testing to the Bar Code Program Office (BCPO) for use with bar code clinical application software.

2. BACKGROUND

a. Multiple bar code scanner, wristband printer, and wristband print media combinations in use at VHA Medical Centers hinder the optimal use of Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA).

b. To provide evidence-based recommendations on best equipment solutions, BCPO staff has developed standardized testing criteria to evaluate bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media to identify best-in-breed recommendations for use with bar code clinical application software.

c. To meet current and future VHA enterprise needs, bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media must support two-dimensional bar code symbologies.

d. Bar code equipment that has been evaluated and approved for use with bar code clinical applications is maintained on BCPO website BCRO website [Bar Code Resource Office - Approved Equipment](#) .

3. POLICY: It is VHA policy that a facility cannot purchase bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media to be used with bar code clinical software other than those approved for use by BCPO.

4. ACTION

a. **Facility Director.** Each VHA Facility Director, or designee, is responsible for ensuring:

(1) Only BCPO-approved equipment is used to replace bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media for use with bar code clinical software.

(2) A request is submitted to BCPO for evaluation of a bar code scanner, wristband printer, or wristband print media if it does not appear on the approved list. If a facility wants to buy a bar code scanner, wristband printer, or wristband print media that is not approved, the facility must complete VA Form 10-0356, Submitting Bar Code Scanners, Wristband Printers, and Wristband Print Media for Testing to the Bar Code Program Office for use with Bar Code Clinical

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Application Software (see Att. A) and electronically submit request to the BCPO to determine if the product meets the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) criteria. **NOTE:** *Submit the request to BCPO by clicking on the 'Submit by Email' button in the lower right corner of the form and accepting the defaults in the dialog boxes.*

(3) The new product is not purchased or used for patient care until it has been approved by BCPO.

(4) The BCMA Coordinator has conducted appropriate training for all end users.

b. **BCPO Staff.** BCPO staff is responsible for:

a. Conducting the equipment evaluation of newly submitted requests using BCPO established testing and scoring criteria;

b. Applying the results of the equipment evaluation to the operational baselines for bar code clinical applications equipment;

c. Ensuring the compatibility of all possible combinations of approved equipment;

d. Notifying Innovation and Procurement Services and the identified facility point-of-contact of the approval or disapproval of the bar code scanner, wristband printer, and wristband print media for purchase; and

e. Updating the listing of approved equipment on the BCPO website within 14 days of the approval.

5. REFERENCES: None.

6. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY: The Office of Information, BCPO (196J), is responsible for the contents of this Directive. Questions may be addressed to 785-350-4569.

7. RESCISSIONS: None. This VHA Directive expires December 31, 2011.

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Acting Under Secretary for Health

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ATTACHMENT A

**VA FORM 10-0356, SUBMITTING BAR CODE SCANNERS, WRISTBAND PRINTERS,
AND WRISTBAND PRINT MEDIA FOR TESTING TO THE BAR CODE PROGRAM
OFFICE FOR USE WITH BAR CODE CLINICAL APPLICATION SOFTWARE**

Below is an embedded copy of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) VA Form 10-0356, Submitting Bar Code Scanners, Wristband Printers, and Wristband Print Media for Testing to the Bar Code Program Office for use with Bar Code Clinical Application Software. This fillable version of VA Form 10-0356 can also be found on the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Forms website at: <http://vaww.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/vha-10-0356-fill.pdf>. It is to be used by the facility when requesting the testing for bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media that are not currently approved for use with bar code clinical application software.

You should use the latest version of Adobe Acrobat Reader to view this form.



VA Form
10-0356-fill.pdf

Submitting Bar Code Scanners, Wristband Printers, and Wristband Print Media for Testing to the Bar Code Program Office for use with Bar Code Clinical Application Software

Date:

It is VHA policy that a facility can not purchase bar code scanners, wristband printers, and wristband print media to be used with the Bar Code Clinical Application software other than those recommended by the Bar Code Program Office. A facility must submit a request to the Bar Code Program Office for evaluation of a bar code scanner, wristband printer, or wristband print media if it does not appear on the approved list.

Please complete all questions below and click on the "Submit by Email" button in the lower right corner below and accepting the defaults in the dialog boxes.

Facility Name

Station #

VISN

Facility Point of Contact Information

Name

Position Title

Phone Number

Facility POC
Email Address

Equipment Information

Type of Equipment

Manufacturer

Make / Model

Vendor Information

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Vendor Email
Address if Known