

## NEW TECHNOLOGIES

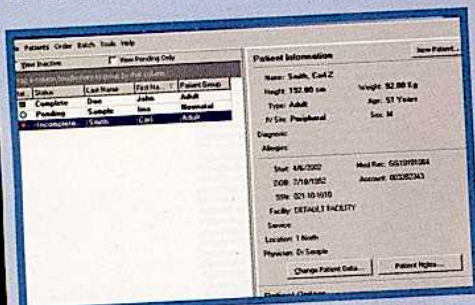
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scanner for medication administration. The lists quickly expose due and overdue medications, based on real-time drug administration data.

- The software provides an override feature that allows nurses to remove a medication, even though a pharmacist may not be available—such as during the night, when the pharmacy is closed or in the event of an emergency order. “This will facilitate the clinical checking of that new order against the First DataBank clinical drug database, so that problems with drug allergies, drug-dosage issues and drug interactions can be detected prior to drug administration—even though the order has not been reviewed by a pharmacist,” Mr. Vrabel said.

### Software for TPN Calculation Launched

Baxa Corporation unveiled its new Abacus software, a Microsoft Windows-based program for order entry and total parenteral nutrition (TPN) calculation. According to the company, the product was designed by health-system pharmacists to ensure safety and reduce the opportunity for user errors in the prescribing, calculating and mixing of parenteral nutrition solutions. The software will be released during the first quarter of 2004.



The Abacus software for TPN calculation.

“Abacus offers built-in safety features and user customization unavailable in any other software package,” said Ed Apodaca, Market Manager at Baxa. These features include bar-coded formula labels and aluminum content tracking for compounding safety; graphical calcium-phosphorus curves and customizable warning limits to prevent order and mixing errors; and extensive reporting tools to support pharmacy tracking and decision making.

The program allows staff to enter a physician order and then hold the order, so that it may undergo a final check by a pharmacist. It also double-checks physician orders and allows pharmacists to enter customized warnings. Abacus can be customized to match up with the specific procedures and forms used in any hospital.

Abacus is available as a stand-alone calculation tool (Abacus CE), in a single-user edition (Abacus SE) and a multiuser edition (Abacus ME). The program can be used with any of the Baxa line of automated compounders.

### Automation System Pays For Itself, Reduces Errors

A Kansas medical center announced that its new pharmacy automation system produced a 211% return on the investment required to implement it after four months of

use. The institution also reported that the system helped reduce medication-selection errors by 96%.

Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, a 760-bed teaching hospital, launched the new system last July. An independent consulting firm measured the results of the system, which is comprised of McKesson Automation’s MedCarousel vertical medication-storage-and-retrieval system and its Fulfill-Rx inventory management and optimization solution.

“We’re pleased that the initial results of our integrated pharmacy automation program have exceeded expectations,” commented Jack Bond, Director of Pharmacy at Wesley Medical Center. “We’re focused on patient safety, and McKesson’s technologies have enabled us to meet our objectives, while achieving substantial cost savings. The program has paid for itself.”

The system automates inventory management processes, including restocking. It also

instantly updates dose-level prices, generates daily distributor orders and reports on total inventory investment.

The system also decreased Wesley’s daily pharmacy order processing time by 75%, its daily receiving time by 50% and its medication selection time by 8%. In addition, the space saved by using MedCarousel’s vertical shelving enabled the hospital to cancel a \$400,000 expansion project for the pharmacy.



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Piperacillin for Injection, USP, is indicated for the treatment of serious gram-negative infections caused by susceptible strains of indicated organisms. Piperacillin is generally well tolerated. Treatment with Piperacillin or any other antibiotic should include culture and susceptibility tests to identify the causative microorganism so that appropriate therapy can be instituted. The most common adverse reactions have been local in nature, following intravenous or intramuscular injection.