

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions



PROmanager-Rx

PROmanager-Rx Overview

Q: What is PROmanager-Rx?

A: The PROmanager-Rx™ pharmacy automation system increases accuracy and eliminates process steps by automating the use of Package-Ready Oral solid medications. Using bar-code-driven robotics, PROmanager-Rx automatically stores, dispenses, and manages all medication returns and credits. PROmanager-Rx is ideal for patient-specific filling operations, and successfully positions hospitals for bar-code medication administration.

Q: What is unique and important about PROmanager-Rx?

A: The combination of manufacturer packaging, bar-code scanning of every dose, and sophisticated software makes PROmanager-Rx the safest automated pharmacy system available in the market.

Furthermore, PROmanager-Rx requires the lowest pharmacist involvement of any automated or robotic pharmacy system available because it eliminates the need to check packaging. *(The Ohio State Board of Pharmacy already has awarded a Q.A. check waiver specifically to PROmanager-Rx.)* PROmanager-Rx offers an extremely compact footprint, especially for its capacity, and offers ease of installation, with no special power or compressed air requirements.

PROmanager-Rx provides a compelling benefits story, ROI, and payback period at dispensing volumes readily encountered in the majority of acute care hospitals.

Q: Who should consider PROmanager-Rx?

A: Hospital pharmacy directors seeking to fully leverage manufacturer packaging and considering automation systems should take a closer look at PROmanager-Rx.

- **Community sized hospitals (daily census of 50-150).** When compared with other automation systems, PROmanager-Rx offers unprecedented scalability and affordability. The system is ideal for hospitals facing space and capital constraints, delivering safety, productivity, and inventory control improvements for facilities dispensing 1,000 or more oral solid doses per day.
 - **Mid size hospitals (average daily census of 150-400).** PROmanager-Rx is ideal for patient-specific dispensing. On average, it automates 65-70 percent of a pharmacy's daily dispensing needs. PROmanager-Rx significantly reduces pharmacist labor because it eliminates the need for unit-dose packaging and package checking. Because it scans every dose it dispenses, PROmanager-Rx is perfectly positioned for hospitals currently live, or migrating to, bar code medication administration systems.
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- **Larger hospitals (average daily census 400 or more).** PROmanager-Rx supports the oral solids workload for patient-specific filling in a large hospital, while the other medication forms are managed through McKesson's MedCarousel® or IntelliShelf-Rx™. Hospitals in this category may have a preference to fully automate dispensing of nearly all patient-specific unit-dose dispensing using ROBOT-Rx®. For very large hospitals, PROmanager-Rx could be used in conjunction with ROBOT-Rx to fully automate dispensing of the vast majority of patient-specific, unit-dose dispensing.

Q: How much floor space do I need for PROmanager-Rx?

A: PROmanager-Rx features an attractive and compact appliance-like design, with a footprint approximately 12 ft. wide by 5 ft. deep, including the bin conveyor. McKesson recommends a floor space of 15 ft. wide by 8 ft. deep, with 8 ft. of height clearance.



Q: What other physical considerations are there for PROmanager-Rx?

A: The system is powered by a single, 120-volt electrical outlet, and also requires sufficient electrical capacity for accompanying workstations and printers. PROmanager-Rx also requires a connection to the customer's local area network. McKesson Automation will provide specifications on the empty and maximum weight of PROmanager-Rx, so that you may ensure that the load-bearing capacity of the floor in the proposed location is sufficient.

Q: Who manufactures PROmanager-Rx?

A: McKesson Automation designs and manufactures both hardware and software for PROmanager-Rx at its manufacturing facility near Cranberry Township, PA, approximately 25 miles north of Pittsburgh. Along with the hardware, PROmanager-Rx's software, workstations and bar-code functionality deliver the processes that have a significant impact on a customer's operations.

PROmanager-Rx Reduces Errors

Q: How does PROmanager-Rx reduce picking errors?

A: PROmanager-Rx drives down dispensing errors in several key ways:

1. Medications loaded, stored, and dispensed from the PROmanager-Rx system come with the veracity of manufacturer unit-dose bar-code packaging.
2. All processes are bar-code driven—filling, restocking, and returns. Every dose dispensed from the system is bar-code scanned.
3. All processes are fully automated without opportunity for human error. The system has the sophistication to detect any anomaly should it occur during dispensing or restocking, providing alerts and taking other appropriate actions to prevent any error.

Q: Do pharmacists have to check every dose coming out of PROmanager-Rx?

A: The practice of pharmacy is within the purview of the hospital and the State Board of Pharmacy. Where states are amenable to less than 100 percent checking based on automation, PROmanager-Rx should be eligible, as ROBOT-Rx automation systems have been. Pharmacist checking of manufacturer-packaged medications normally is not required. (In May 2009, Riverside Methodist Hospital received a check waiver from Ohio's State Board of Pharmacy to conduct a QA check in lieu of a full pharmacist check for medications dispensed by PROmanager-Rx.)

Furthermore, Connect-Rx® software provides an electronic pharmacist checking utility for PROmanager-Rx to facilitate the checking process, whether a QA check or 100 percent check is conducted.

Q: What is the capacity of PROmanager-Rx?

A: The PROmanager-Rx system is available as a 12,000-dose unit (dual carousel) system.

Q: Can PROmanager-Rx accommodate medication forms other than oral solids, such as liquids and other odd forms?

A: PROmanager-Rx was designed to efficiently store and dispense package-ready oral solid medications. For most acute care hospitals, oral solid medications constitute up to 80 percent of patient cart fill, first dose, and unit-based cabinet replenishment requirements.

Q: Does PROmanager-Rx accommodate controlled substances?

A: PROmanager-Rx is not recommended as an optimal narcotics management tool; it does not include the physical security and software controls and reporting typically required for narcotic management systems.



PROmanager-Rx Works with Other Automation

Q: What version of Connect-Rx will PROmanager-Rx use?

A: PROmanager-Rx operates on McKesson Automation's Connect-Rx software version 7.0, or later versions.

Q: Does PROmanager-Rx require any specific interfaces?

A: Via the Connect-Rx system, PROmanager-Rx interfaces with the Pharmacy Information System to receive Orders, Patient Admission, Discharge and Transfer information, and Billing. Connect-Rx can also support replenishment of non-McKesson unit-based automated dispensing cabinets.

Q: Does PROmanager-Rx integrate with other automation systems?

A: PROmanager-Rx is compatible with and integrates with all McKesson Automation products.

PROmanager-Rx is particularly well suited to work with the IntelliShelf-Rx and MedCarousel systems. In these settings, PROmanager-Rx completes a patient specific fill of oral solid medications, with IntelliShelf-Rx and/or MedCarousel accounting for odd-form medications. For ROBOT-Rx hospitals, PROmanager-Rx can be used to manage oral solid dispensing while using ROBOT-Rx for oral solids not available in package-ready form, as well as for additional odd-form capacity.

PROmanager-Rx Leverages Manufacturer Packaging

Q: What are the benefits of purchasing manufacturer package-ready oral solid unit-dose medications versus purchasing in bulk and using in-house packaging?

A: Because the PROmanager-Rx system leverages manufacturer-packaged unit doses, when compared to in-house packaging operations, pharmacist involvement on the front end (packaging verification, restocking, and management of returns) is virtually eliminated. Further, checking normally is not required for manufacturer-packaged medications. Significant safety and process improvements are among the chief benefits of the PROmanager-Rx system. Manufacturer package-ready, unit-dose medications typically carry a longer expiration date than is possible with in-house packaging, extended shelf life and reducing the potential for wasted, expired medications.

Q: Are manufacturer blister packages more expensive than purchasing medications in bulk?

A: On average, the acquisition cost of the medication itself is typically 4¢ to 6¢ per dose higher in unit-dose form. However, when the cost of repackaging, including labor, technology, materials, and pharmacist checking labor are considered, the hospital is likely to save 4¢ - 6¢ per dose when package-ready oral solids are purchased.

Q: What is the availability of manufacturer unit-dose package-ready oral solid medications?

A: According to research conducted by McKesson, up to 80 percent of the top 500 most commonly dispensed medications are available in bar-coded, package-ready form. Hospitals that manage their formularies to maximize purchases of manufacturer-packaged unit dose oral solids (or “package-ready” oral solids) report purchasing nearly 90 percent of their oral solid medications in that form.

Q: Does PROmanager-Rx have any package size limitations?

A: PROmanager-Rx is designed to accommodate the vast majority of package-ready oral solid unit dose sizes and shapes. McKesson estimates that approximately 96 percent of package-ready oral solids will be accommodated by PROmanager-Rx.



Q: Can PROmanager-Rx accommodate medications that are not available through drug manufacturers?

A: Yes. In-house packaging systems that produce a compatible package can be used. As with any in-house packaging, the accuracy and integrity of the output should be verified by a pharmacist before the medications are stocked into PROmanager-Rx.

Q: Is there a device available to help the pharmacy technician separate the manufacturer produced medications into single doses?

A: McKesson had developed a standalone unit-dose singulator tool that is shipped with the PROmanager-Rx during production implementation.

PROmanager-Rx Manages Inventory

Q: How does PROmanager-Rx increase inventory turns?

A: PROmanager-Rx increases inventory turns based on its perpetual inventory management features. Many McKesson solutions use these inventory management tools and they have been documented to increase turns significantly, based on active management through automation.

Q: How does PROmanager-Rx function as a perpetual inventory system?

A: PROmanager-Rx uses expiration date tracking to dispense first those medications that expire soonest. Its software tracks all medication-related inventory activities in which inventory is decremented (dispensing and removal of any expired medications). Similarly, all restocks and returns are incremented and tracked. Therefore, PROmanager-Rx knows its precise inventory at all times.

PROmanager-Rx uses the concept of max and par values and a restock report to assist the operator with identification of medications to be restocked. For convenience, it is possible to restock more than one set of max doses per line item into the system. PROmanager-Rx uses Dynamic Inventory Optimization, allowing the number of doses to be specified as days usage, with PROmanager-Rx adjusting quantities as needed. Dynamic Inventory Optimization can be activated or deactivated on a line-item basis.

Q: What kind of management reporting is available through PROmanager-Rx?

A: Standard reports are available through the Connect-Rx software system. Custom reporting is also available, as is the McKesson Automation Decision Support™ product.

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