

## **THE PRESENT IN MEDICAL PRODUCTS BARCODING**

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The main feature of the production and distribution of medicinal products in the pharmaceutical industry is their extremely wide range. Therefore, it is difficult to imagine organization of a modern pharmacy activity without bar-coding technology. First steps to develop barcode in the form they look now have been made in 1948. International non-profit and non-governmental organization - the EAN Association, established in 1977 is engaged in assigning of bar codes.

Coding of goods is assignment of symbols in the form of digital, alphanumeric and bar code for products with identification purposes.

Classification of goods - ordered on the basis of certain characteristics of the goods distribution by grade and smaller subsections, independent of one another, or which are in a logical order and subordination.

Currently, there are two main ways of encoding information in the bar code. Linear bar codes are probably the most famous of all the automatic identification technologies. Currently EAN / UPC barcodes underlie global diversified communications system. Historically, in trade, including the distribution of medicinal products, the most widely used code is EAN / UPC.

New growing trend in the world of bar codes is two-dimensional codes. Two-dimensional are called symbologies designed to encode large amounts of information. Decoding of the code is performed in two dimensions (horizontal and vertical).

In Ukraine, barcoding of goods by subjects of entrepreneurial activity is performed on the basis of the CMU Decree № 574 (1996), the Order of ME and VEIU № 255 from 20.08.2002. (with subsequent amendments). According to the Decree of Cabinet of Ministers № 574 items are marked with EAN barcode. Since 2007 in Ukraine goods barcoding is done by the Association «GS1 - Ukraine", which is the rights holder of reorganized Article Numbering Association of Ukraine (EAN - Ukraine).

Today, a common thing for a pharmacist at drug dispensing is to bring its package to the barcode scanner and to get information about the name, manufacturer, quantity of goods, which is available at the moment in the pharmacy and the corresponding price on the terminal screen, and also gives the possibility to obtain information about the volume of sales of goods, for the current and specified period of time. It is this "popularity" that calls for the promotion of barcoding in pharmacy.