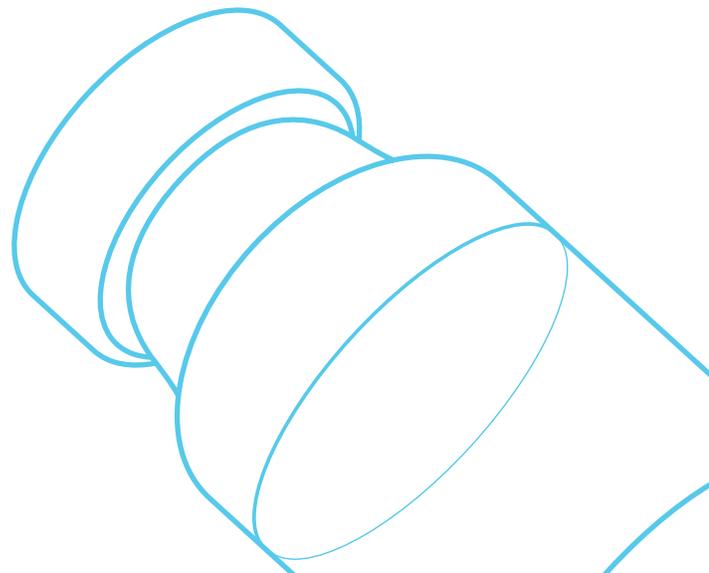


PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes with Kit Check

ASHP Symposium Summary

June 2016



PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes with Kit Check

ASHP Symposium on PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes and Kit Check Draws a Crowd

Presentations by three hospital pharmacy leaders on their experience using PharMEDium prefilled syringes with Kit Check drew a crowd of 65 pharmacists at the ASHP Summer Meetings earlier this week in Baltimore. Geoffrey Cox, director of pharmacy services at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital both presented and moderated the event. He led off by saying:

"This morning's talk is going to be about helping improve patient safety and efficiency using prefilled syringes and RFID. I am an advocate of utilizing technology as a medium for pharmacy practices, especially medication delivery...In this day and age with the reduction in labor force in hospital pharmacy, technology has really risen to be a huge part of the medication delivery system. It frees up labor to do other things that are important in terms of patient safety."

The event speakers included:

1. John Falkenholm, Pharm.D., Pharmacy Operations Manager, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital
2. Robert Eastin, Pharm.D., Director of Central Pharmacy and Shared Services, Scripps Health
3. Geoffrey Cox, Pharm.D., Director of Pharmacy Services, MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

Pharmacists are Happy and Technicians Feel More in Control

1.0

John Falkenholm

Advocate Lutheran General



John Falkenholm, Pharm.D., ASHP Symposium, June 2016

John Falkenholm of Advocate Lutheran General, a 638 licensed bed hospital in Park Ridge Illinois started off with the comments, "We had two main reasons for looking at an RFID

solution. In 2013, we had two errors where an item was filled incorrectly or a used item was left in a kit. Neither of these errors resulted in any patient harm fortunately, but it did let us know that we did have something that we needed to do to prevent these from continuing to occur. We also wanted to look for ways to free up time for the pharmacist so they could focus their time on more clinical activities."

He went on to explain that their pharmacy implemented Kit Check in June of 2015 and started manually tagging PharMEDium syringes used in the ECT boxes from the beginning. This provided them with more visibility into medication location and



Multi-Layer ECT Box Using Kit Check and PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes 2016

ensured accurate restocking. In June 2016, the pharmacy began trialing prefilled syringes in the OR with embedded Kit Check tags to further expand use of the system.

He concluded by discussing his staff's reaction to the solution. "The pharmacists I have talked to are very happy not to have to check kits. The technicians have more control. They don't have to wait for pharmacists to check the kits so they can put them away. They own the process...and they like knowing that any kit they process through the system is accurate."

Reduced Errors, Refill Time and Back-up Kit Inventory

2.0

Robert Eastin

Scripps Health



Robert Eastin, Pharm.D., ASHP Symposium, June 2016

Robert Eastin of Scripps discussed his experience with Kit Check and PharMEDium at the 700-bed acute care hospital in San Diego. "We had 43 adult code boxes deployed throughout the hospital, but to support those 43 we kept an additional 10-15 in the main pharmacy simply

for ease of change-out. So obviously right there you see some inefficiency in the process...It took about eighteen and a half minutes for a pharmacy technician to refill a code box and then have a pharmacist check as well as seal that code box. And, that eighteen and half minutes is uninterrupted time and I don't know the last time any of you had twenty minutes of uninterrupted time in a hospital pharmacy. You just don't get that. So that is probably an underestimation of the time spent with each box."

"One of the issues we did see which was a major dissatisfier for the staff was that boxes would come back particularly on the weekend and they would sit there... So of course, whoever showed up on Monday morning was not too pleased that they had the process of checking out and refilling ten kits."

Eastin also mentioned that during an assessment of twelve of the adult code boxes refilled using the manual restocking process, they found two errors. One was a missing medication and the other was an expiration date that was written down incorrectly. After



Sealed Code Box Using Kit Check and PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes

implementing Kit Check, a random check of 19 kits yielded zero errors. Robert Eastin commented, "That is a big win for pharmacy. When the surveyors and inspectors pop those boxes, it is always a nervous moment. But we had no errors and it is easier to sleep at night."

Eastin also added that the average time to refill the adult code boxes fell from 18:30 minutes to only 6:23 minutes. They also eliminated all but two of the back-up boxes saving inventory from 13 code box kits in the process. In commenting on PharMEDium he added, "We do use prefilled syringes...and we were tagging these ourselves. Now to have the opportunity to have inventory we can purchase that comes pre-tagged is another huge benefit because it does remove that additional tagging."

Ensuring Consistency and Accuracy While Saving Time

3.0

Geoffrey Cox

Medstar Georgetown
University Hospital

Georgetown's Geoffrey Cox got right to the point. "I was actually embarrassed in one of our town hall meetings," he said about a story shared in an employee forum at his hospital. "An anesthesiologist was about to give a drug and then when he checked the expiration date he found that the drug was expired for more than two months. And so someone raised up their hand during the town hall meeting and said, 'This is a simple task. Why can't make sure you prevent this from happening again.'"



Geoffrey Cox, Pharm.D., ASHP Symposium, June 2016

Cox continued, "Even though it sounds very simplistic. It is complex because as we all know, every time a pharmacy technician encounters a tray ... they have to check every

drug ... and make sure every expiration date on the drug is correct and within your policy. That's a huge task. The use of RFID technology was right on time from our perspective for improving the medication use process in the perioperative area."

Georgetown was a beta site for the PharMEDium program with Kit Check in the Spring of 2016 and Cox went on to recount his experience using the system. "We've actually started receiving syringes tagged with RFID chips from PharMEDium and that has really helped improve our efficiency. It has eliminated the time that we used to tag these syringes and it has eliminated the time that we used to take to enter the NDC and lot numbers into the system. That is a huge advantage in terms of our operations."



PharMEDium Prefilled Syringes with Embedded Kit Check RFID Tags

"[With Kit Check] we are saving about 5.2 hours per day for a tech. That frees up 5.2 hours that a tech can do something else. In terms of the tagged syringes we get from PharMEDium...it is about ten items associated with pre-filled syringes. So having the syringes already tagged

with the chips...we are saving about 106 minutes per day. So the efficiency associated with PharMEDium already having the tags with the chips is a huge improvement in terms of efficiency." The combined time savings is nearly seven hours each day just for the tech in addition to time saved by pharmacists not having to check kits.

In speaking about the direct benefits of added efficiency provided by Kit Check and PharMEDium Cox added, "As a former clinical pharmacist in the anesthetizing unit, I am really trying to free up activities at the bedside.

When clinicians are freed up from dispensing work, they can really focus on patient safety."

PharMEDium – Kit Check Collaboration Delivers Benefits

In June 2016, PharMEDium's parent company AmerisourceBergen [announced](#) the collaboration with Kit Check to, "help enhance patient safety, increase medication efficiencies and reduce waste in hospitals." Kit Check users have tracked PharMEDium prefilled syringes for some time as part of kit dispatches to OR anesthesia providers and the subsequent returns processing. However, users were adding Kit Check tags to the syringes after receipt from PharMEDium. Now users can order their prefilled syringes with Kit Check tags already embedded in the syringe label. This both eliminates the need to add tags to the syringes and eliminates the cost of the RFID tag for users as PharMEDium provides them at no additional cost.

We know this is great for Kit Check users from both an efficiency and cost perspective. And, we also believe that this can help drive additional adoption of prefilled syringes in the OR suite which provides added safety benefits for patients. From the very beginning, Kit Check has been focused on the dual benefits of enhanced efficiency and safety. The collaboration with PharMEDium is one more feature that distinguishes Kit Check as more than a tag.

To learn more about Kit Check's work with PharMEDium click the button below.

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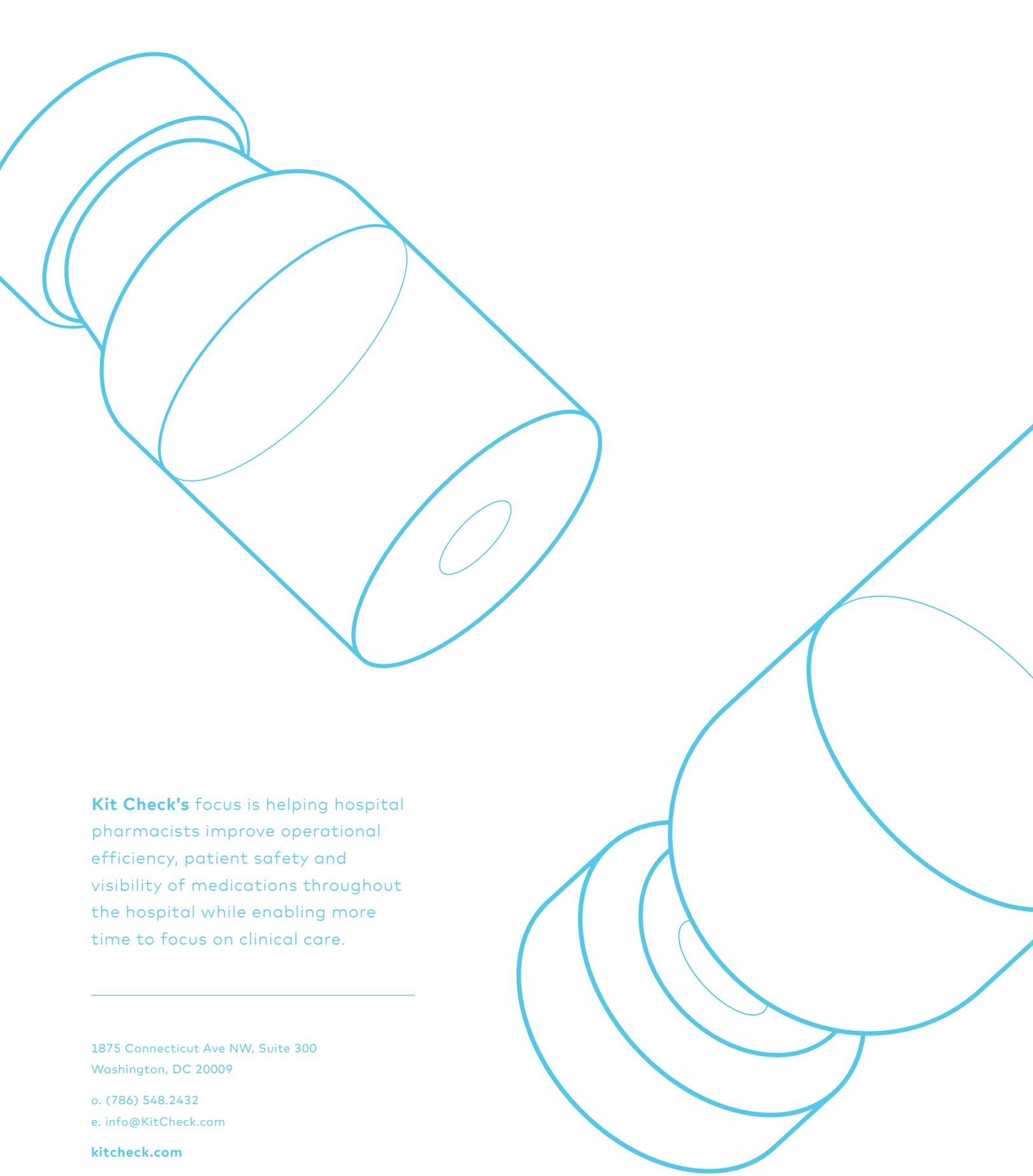
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Kit Check's focus is helping hospital pharmacists improve operational efficiency, patient safety and visibility of medications throughout the hospital while enabling more time to focus on clinical care.

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