

## Moving forward or standing still?

The case for mobile printing in healthcare environments

**With paper records, identity tags and labelling information used extensively in hospitals and clinics worldwide, the origination and format of printed materials is more important to a high quality service than it might seem.**

Handwritten records are always liable to misreading through no fault of the reader. Central printing resources, while being cost-effective to administrate and maintain, are inconvenient for staff moving from patient to patient, and run the risk of nurses picking up the wrong documents from the printer tray.

With energy, ink and paper costs high, they can also be uneconomical to run. Mobile printing, then, can play a critical role in the provision of efficient, safe, productive healthcare services to patients, making it easier to produce and validate patient-related materials, and reducing the potential for errors in patient identity.

### Mobile printing to support more accurate labelling

The more time and distance between when labels and other printed matter are produced and when they are applied, the greater the chances they will be put on the wrong sample or applied to the wrong patient.

Specimen misidentification in laboratory medicine can have significant consequences for patients. Mislabeled tissue specimens will often result in harm to patients, such as undergoing unnecessary surgical or diagnostic procedures. In other cases, patients will be subjected to unnecessary diagnostic studies or experience significant delays in the treatment of medical conditions they never knew they had.

The reasons for creating processes to prevent specimen labelling errors are clear. So is the value of bedside labelling for specimen identification.



## Mobile printing to support safer, more efficient processes

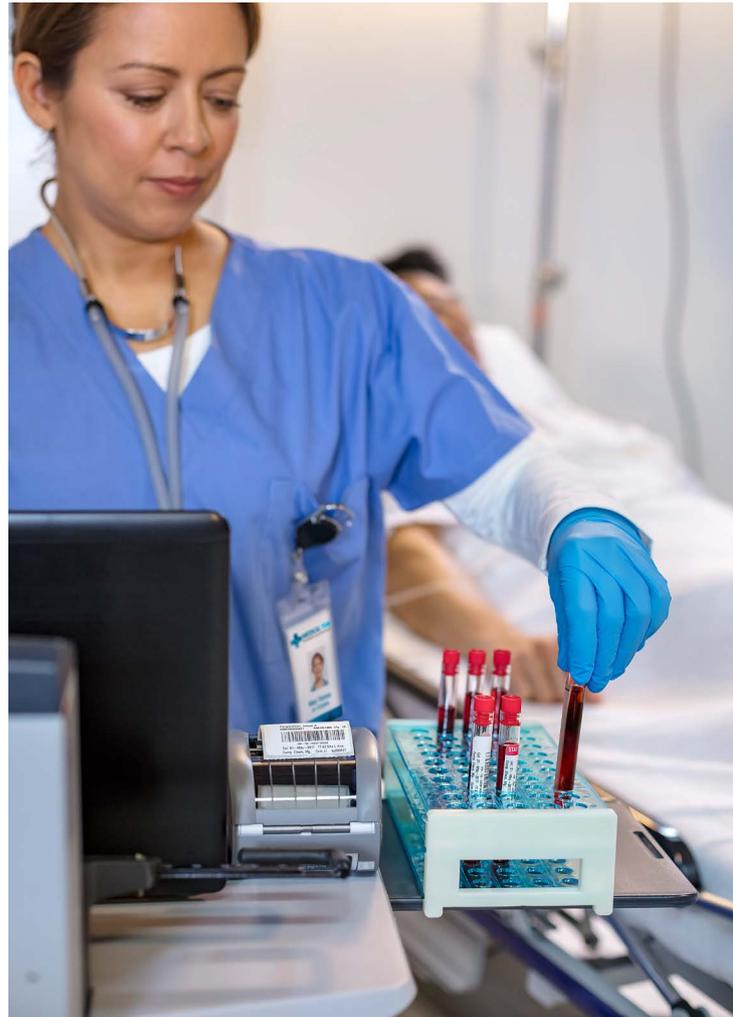
Printing patient-related documents away from bedside has a number of disadvantages.

Administratively, returning to a central location such as a nurse's station to pick up printed forms, tags or labels always runs the risk of returning to bedside with the wrong item, and consequently following the wrong directions for a given patient.

And more time spent to-ing and fro-ing to the department printer is less time spent actively caring for patients.

Practical, easy to use and easy to clean, using mobile printing technologies to produce barcodes is becoming the definitive means of reducing errors in patient identification. Barcode wristbands help to eliminate confusion and increase staff certainty and, as a result, quality of patient care.

Specimen collection, medication labelling and blood administration, all can be carried out more confidently and efficiently using mobile printing, while looking towards the adoption of electronic medical records, meeting relevant legislation and achieving budgetary and business goals.



For more information about how Zebra healthcare solutions could help you to mitigate risk, improve patient safety and increase organisational efficiency, visit [www.zebra.com/healthcare](http://www.zebra.com/healthcare)



**NA and Corporate Headquarters**  
+1 800 423 0442  
[inquiry4@zebra.com](mailto:inquiry4@zebra.com)

**Asia-Pacific Headquarters**  
+65 6858 0722  
[contact.apac@zebra.com](mailto:contact.apac@zebra.com)

**EMEA Headquarters**  
[zebra.com/locations](http://zebra.com/locations)  
[contact.emea@zebra.com](mailto:contact.emea@zebra.com)

**Latin America Headquarters**  
+1 847 955 2283  
[la.contactme@zebra.com](mailto:la.contactme@zebra.com)