

## On Demand Label Printing Benefits St. Alexius Medical Center



At St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, on demand printing with the Datamax I-4208 thermal transfer printer saves time and lives.

Bar code label printing offers multiple benefits within their healthcare system. St. Alexius Medical Center is a community hospital and trauma center acquired by Alexian Brothers Healthcare organization in 1999. Bob Payne, Vice President of Mid-America Bar Code Inc., a Datamax reseller explains, "St. Alexius is undergoing massive renovations, which include implementing new technologies and replacing older Legacy printers with the versatile Datamax I-Class printer." St. Alexius is currently using thirty-four Datamax I-Class printers in this facility, with plans to purchase up to ten more printers as part of their ER expansion and renovation efforts.



The Datamax I-4208 is used for the entire admissions process. Every patient who enters the medical center is identified through wristband bar code labeling. Emergency room patients, out-patients visiting for day surgery, or patients entering for blood testing, are all required to have a bar coded wristband for any level of care. Information included in the bar coded band is a Patient Account (ID) number, Medical Record number, and Physician name. "This allows for accuracy of tracking patients and compliance with regulations for patient safety and accountability," says Chris Wilder, Information Resources P.C. Technical Coordinator for St. Alexius Medical Center. The ERP System used at St. Alexius is Meditech Mainstream Version 4.9.



Meditech supports and recommends Datamax printers to their hospital customers.

The I-Class is also used to label blood collection specimens sent to the lab. Once in the lab, additional labels are generated for tracking the specimen through multiple types of testing. Some tests are conducted in automated lab equipment with internal bar code scanners. The vials and test tubes used are labeled in an orientation so the bar code can be read during the automated test. The ability to generate labels on demand with the Datamax I-Class offers the lab greater flexibility and accuracy to lab personnel.



Other bar code uses include IV bags and pharmaceutical medicines when repackaged from bulk quantities to single dose quantities. The pharmacy had been using old impact printers that lacked the ability to provide a quality bar code. "The reliability of the Datamax I-4208 printer solves this problem," says Chris Wilder. With the implementation of printers into this application, hospital staff can now scan the pharmaceutical products at the point of care. This will allow for a more accurate accounting of products billed to the patient.

"We are extremely happy with the performance of the Datamax printers. The benefits achieved with the I-4208 allow us to lower media costs, reduce label waste, and improve our processes with more efficiency. The I-Class printer is a durable, high-quality machine that produces bar codes with great accuracy and clarity which is vital in our environment, says Chris Wilder."



## References

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