

Gross, Mary

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Sent: Friday, June 21, 2002 1:47 PM
To: grossm@cdcr.fda.gov
Cc: Cathy_Calhoun@clinton.senate.gov
Subject: Bar Code: FDA Hearing on Drug Bar Code 7/18

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I am the Director of Pharmacy Services & Associate chief of Section of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Medicine at the Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York.

I am a strong proponent of an uniform bar code system for use by all pharmaceutical manufacturers. The bar code prevents numerous serious adverse events, including "drug mixups", "administration to wrong patients".

While the drug makers make billions, they do not believe in investing little amount of the profit for improving patient care. Medication misadventures are serious problems and kills thousands every year. Thousands of patients remain in hospital for a prolonged period because of the misadventures. And, who pays the bill? We, the tax payers!

It is unfortunate that we cannot use an easy-to-use technical tool to prevent many of the errors. It is a disgrace that some of the drug makers are blocking it because of profit motive. May be they would learn the lesson in the future as the cigarette manufactures are learning now!

I do recommend that the FDA takes a stand mandating all of the drug manufacturers to use an uniform bar code system **within next 12 months**. The time is now!!! Enough is enough!!! No more excuses!! Please do not give them any option or allow them to implement it next 3-5 year period. We need to address the issue today and respond to the thousands of medication misadventure sufferers.

Respectfully submitted,

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