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McKesson's Assist Line Offers Automation Tailored to Retail Pharmacies

McKesson Pharmacy Automation is leading the way in automating how patients get their medication, enabling faster and safer treatment.

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MCKESSON

Company Background

McKesson Pharmacy Automation has long been a market leader in providing automation technology to retail pharmacies. With a reputation of providing unparalleled service — truly second to none — they lead the way on automating how patients receive medication, enabling faster and safer treatment.

How exactly do they deliver the best possible experience to pharmacies and their patients? It's a precise mix of people, partners, and technology.

First and foremost are the people. People who understand what it's like to count pills or have their eyes go blurry from filling seemingly endless blister cards. People who understand the ins and outs of pharmacy. Their collective goal is to make every process within a pharmacy's operation safer, more accurate, and as efficient as possible.

Partners are the next ingredient in the mix: creative and enterprising engineering firms, best-in-class manufacturers, and premiere shipping and logistics companies.

Adding the two together results in leading-edge technology that automates the repetitive and manual tasks that most commonly lead to medication errors. BlistAssist and CountAssist are two such technologies.

Product Overview

■ BlistAssist

When the team at McKesson Pharmacy Automation observed the extent to which pharmacists and technicians struggle with the tediousness of blister packaging and how easy it is for a pill to inadvertently end up in the wrong dosing slot, they knew there was a better solution. The idea for BlistAssist was born.

BlistAssist is a unique blister card production and verification unit ideal for small to medium-sized pharmacies that manually package blister cards. Stock bottle scanning and light-guided filling ensure patients receive the right drug and dose at the right time. There's a simplified verification process that photographs each medication added to a blister card and provides a large, clear view of each cell's contents. The verification

images can be accessed from anywhere within the pharmacy network, allowing team members to complete verification from a computer or portable tablet, away from the distractions of a busy dispensary. The average pharmacy has seen an increase in production efficiency, a drastic reduction in the number of fill errors (due to bottle scanning and light-guided filling), and an average reduction in verification time of 70%!

■ CountAssist

When it comes to vial filling, CountAssist makes counting technology more accessible than ever before. Each compact cabinet contains 18 canisters, typically loaded with the pharmacy's fastest moving products. All cells count individually, directly into their dedicated output chute. This means that multiple cells can count in conjunction, helping to minimize pharmacy wait times during a rush. Just one CountAssist cabinet can automate 35% of a pharmacy's oral solid prescriptions, freeing up team members to focus on other value-added activities within the dispensary.

It's common for pharmacies to install multiple CountAssist towers as the pharmacy's prescription volume grows. Due to its compact design, it can be used as a bay end cap or simply mounted to the wall. This technology can truly fit in any dispensary.

Testimonials

"Since installing BlistAssist, we've experienced a drastic reduction in the time required to produce and verify blister cards. The software provides security by guiding users through each step of the process, ensuring that cards are filled quickly and, more importantly, correctly."

— James Dumont, Owner

"Since CountAssist is only accessed from the front and needs minimal space, I was able to install two cabinets in my pharmacy. It's simple to use, so it got my staff comfortable with automation. Now our counts are more accurate, and our efficiency has improved thanks to the system's reliability."

— Karim Merani, Pharmacist & Owner

Ordering Information

Whether a pharmacy owner is looking for efficiency solutions during the ongoing labour shortage, or streamlined verification and traceability for producing blister cards, there's no doubt these innovative solutions are must-have technology for today's retail pharmacy. Get started today at www.mckesson.ca/assistline.