Glossary

Adverse Drug Event—an injury resulting from a medication or lack of intended medication.

Affected Systems—identification of pharmacy information/ automation systems as well as hospital information systems that support pharmacy operations and the medication use process. These systems usually consist of the pharmacy information system (PIS), automated dispensing cabinets (ADM), pharmacy robot, TPN compounding machine, pharmacy's intranet and/or hospital's internet sites, admitting/registration system (ADT/registration) for patient access, financial systems, carousel inventory cabinets, bar code medication administration systems (BCMA), clinical decision support (CDS), computerized provider order entry (CPOE), electronic medication administration record (eMAR), clinical results/electronic healthcare record, laboratory information systems, etc.

Alert Fatigue—a state of irritability, exhaustion, or bewilderment triggered in clinicians who have been exposed to too many alerts, or alerts with a perceived history of irrelevance, which cause the user to ignore some or all of the alerts, thereby reducing the safety benefit of the decision support system.

Alert—an urgent notice generated by a computerized clinical decision support system (CDSS). These are usually in the form of a just-in-time, patient-specific message directed to one or more clinicians. It may be a warning regarding a clinician's documented action (or lack thereof) or a documented decision. Or it may be an urgent informational notification of a new clinical condition, circumstance, or change in patient status that requires immediate attention. Some alerts require a response before the clinician can continue.

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)—coordinates the development and use of voluntary consensus standards including Health Level Seven's (HL7) Arden Syntax standard.

Application—software written to work on a computer and designed to perform a specific task, in this context the PIS. It is what the user sees when he opens the PIS.

Arden Syntax Standard—an HL7 standard designed to allow clinicians to program medical logic into a clinical rule or guideline. The American Society for Testing and Materials first approved the Arden Syntax as a standard in 1992 (E-1460-92). Ownership was transferred to HL7 and ANSI in 1999 with the approval of version 2.0 of the standard. The Arden Syntax is the only approved standard for clinicians to encode medical logic into clinical rules known as medical logic modules (MLM).

ASC X12N—Accredited Standards Committee X12; creates standards for the cross industry electronic transmission of business information. ASC X12N standards are used for insurance eligibility and prior authorization communication.

Automated Dispensing Cabinets—secure storage cabinets typically located decentrally on patient care units capable of handling most unit-dose and some bulk (multiple-dose) medications due to storage limitations.

Automation—any technology, machine, or device linked to or controlled by a computer and used to do work. Automation is designed to streamline and improve the accuracy and efficiency of the medication use process.

Bar Code—a series of vertical lines and spaces of varying widths that encode data to be scanned and decoded through a computer.

Bar Code Medication Administration (BCMA)—an inpatient clinical decision support system to assist caregivers with the five rights of medication administration (right patient, right drug, right dose, right route, and right time). BCMA systems provide warnings if any of the five rights are compromised, and many BCMA systems require the nurse to enter an override reason if he/she chooses to proceed. In addition, BCMA systems promote right documentation (some hospitals call this the sixth right of medication administration).

Bar-coding at the Point of Care (BPOC)—a process in which the patient and various patient therapies are documented with a bar code scanner at the bedside.

Business Intelligence—an umbrella term that describes the strategic integration of technology and processes that allow organizations to leverage their data to make better decisions.

Carousel Automation—a medication storage cabinet with rotating shelves used to automate dispensing.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)—the federal healthcare programs for the elderly and indigent. For more information go to: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/

Centralized Robotic Dispensing System—centrally located devices designed to automate the entire process of medication dispensing including medication storage, distribution, restocking, and crediting of unit dose medications.

Change Management—a discipline in information systems service that seeks to ensure that standard methods and procedures are used when making changes to information technology infrastructure, attempting to balance the need for change with the potential negative impact changes can produce.

Clinical Advisory—a decision-making tool that is identified for a specific medication. Nursing guidelines are often created as an advisory. An example would be a suggestion by the pump to the user to use a 0.22-micron filter when administering a medication.

Clinical Decision Support (CDS)—providing clinicians or patients with clinical knowledge and patient-related information, intelligently filtered or presented at appropriate times, to enhance patient care. Clinical knowledge of interest could range from simple facts and relationships to best practices for managing patients with specific disease states, new medical knowledge from clinical research, and other types of information.

Clinical Decision Support System (CDSS)—a system (computer or otherwise) intended to provide CDS to clinicians, caregivers, and healthcare consumers. Automated CDSS are usually just-in-time, point-of-care messages in the form of an alert, reminder, recommendation, or informational notification regarding a patient. Automated CDS systems typically include a knowledge base (which contains stored facts and some method of algorithmic logic), an event monitor (to detect data entry or the storage of data from a laboratory or other system), and a communication system to the end user (unidirectional or bidirectional).