




History of drug authentication pilots

2004		
Aegate pilot	UK	UK based company, Aegate, pilots a three month observational study involving 44 pharmacies and five pharmaceutical companies across England and Wales. The pilot uses mass serialisation technologies; RFID, 1D and 2D barcodes to authenticate at the point of dispensing, scanning 180,000 individual medicines in total.
Accenture "Jumpstart" pilot	USA	Eight week track and trace pilot run by Accenture for a number of pharmaceutical companies including Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer and Procter & Gamble. Nearly 13,500 bulk bottles of pharmaceuticals were shipped, tracked and traced, using RFID tags to monitor each pack of medicine, through the supply chain. Inconclusive results on the return of investment of EPC and RFID for pharmaceutical companies meant the planned follow up pilot did not happen.
2005		
Aegate pilot	USA	Following the success of its UK pilot, Aegate commenced a four month pilot in the US. 42 pharmacies across New York State scanned more than 150,000 pharmaceutical products at the point of dispense. The pilot used a combination of RFID tags, 2D and 1D linear barcodes and established Aegate's global applicability across different continents and environments.
Purdue pilot for Oxycontin	USA	Track and trace RFID pilot led by Purdue Pharma involving its lead product, OxyContin. The pilot scanned between 200,000 and 300,000 RFID tags. One of the major concerns of the project was the effectiveness of the RFID labels. Between 20% and 30% of the labels supplied for the pilot experienced read failures.
Pfizer pilot for Viagra	USA	A pilot test involving RFID tags on bottles of Viagra for US-only distribution. 200,000 authentications case level and item level tags. Of those authentications, 19 tags are reported to be "dead" after leaving the facility.
2006		
Cardinal Health pilot	USA	An end-to-end pilot using RFID tags in order to monitor all necessary steps for tracking, tracing and authenticating drugs in the supply chain at the item, case and pallet level. Conclusions from the pilot show that although no tag failures were encountered, the item level reads were impossible when cases were stacked on a pallet, something that occurs regularly in the "real world".
2007		
BRIDGE traceability pilot (Pharma industry)	Europe	The Building Radio Frequency Identification for the Global Environment (BRIDGE) pilots in Europe are examining the effectiveness of RFID. Costing €13 million the pilot runs over 3 years and is partly funded (€7.5 million) by the European Union. The pilots tests RFID across several sectors of the industry, including pharmaceutical, with the aim to influence European organisations of the barriers to successful implementation.
AstraZeneca pilot for Nexium	Europe	AstraZeneca pilots its Serialised Authentication Programme for its NEXIUM® medication, consisting of two features; a Tamper Evident Security Seal (TESS) and a Unique Carton Number (UCN). Each carton contains a unique carton (serial) number encoded in Data Matrix, in response to the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries Association (EFPIA) endorsement of serialisation using 2D data matrix as "the most promising solution to fight counterfeiting and diversion threats in Europe and globally".
Aegate launches Full scale operating system in Belgium & Greece		Aegate launches in Belgium: Utilising MSI Plessey 1D coding, with the Association of Pharmacists of Belgium (APB) backing Aegate's implementation across Belgian pharmacies. More than 80% of pharmacies in Belgium are able to access the system through their software providers.
		Greece becomes Aegate's second country in the EU. Backed by industry bodies including the Panhellenic Pharmacists Association, the service can be accessed by more than two thirds of pharmacists in Greece.
2008		
Catalent and Secure Symbology pilot	USA	Catalent and Secure Symbology run RFID and 2D datamatrix coding track and trace serialisation pilot using 2-D barcodes.
Aegate launches In Italy		Using the standard Bollini 1D barcoding technology, Aegate works with software providers CSF, Newline, PharmaService and Farma3 to launch in Italy with a fully integrated service in existing pharmacy software. Approximately 6000 pharmacies (34%) in Italy are now able to access the service, set to increase over the coming months.
	Smartlog	Switzerland