

IMPACT
Technology Sub-Group Conference
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Tech Subgroup Terms of Reference

- Assess (including piloting when feasible and necessary) technologies to *prevent, deter* or help to *detect* counterfeit medicinal products taking into account: a) cost; b) scalability; c) specific country needs and situations; d) feasibility; and e) regulatory implications
- Facilitate exchange of information on technologies and their implementation
- Disseminate information and recommendations on the merits and limitations of technologies
- Demonstrate the benefit of chosen technological approaches to the end user – i.e., the patient

Current State

- Overt verification tools – holograms, colour-shift inks, etc; widely used, but may be copied;
- Covert tools: invisible print, digital watermarks, etc.; also widely used, dependent on security protection of the device;
- Forensic technology: chemical/biological tags; more secure against copying; more costly; limits across borders; invisible to providers and customers;
- Serialization + Track/trace: authentication through supply chain; trace history; bar codes; RFID; very expensive; different national standards; may be “hacked”

Today's Discussion

- Proposals for a combination of serialization, communication and database-querying to authenticate products in the distribution chain.
- Proposals for one global coding system for medical products fully compatible with digits, bar codes, RFIDs, etc.).

Today's Format

- Four sets of panels – 2 each in am and pm
- Need to keep strict control of time allotted to each speaker
- We invite and encourage discussion around each of the panel sessions – around 25 minutes allowed
- We'll open the floor during the summing up session to try to develop some general points about today's discussions
- Following this meeting we will have a restricted meeting of IMPACT and WHO member state officials who may also wish to attend