Volume 9 - Issue 3, 2009 - European News

Results Published on EU RFID Project

The first results of the EU's RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and Health project have been published. The report presents the findings of the first phase of a study to identify the policy options that can help the development and application of RFID in healthcare. The objectives of the study were:

•To identify and discuss the most relevant areas for deployment and use of RFID in healthcare;
•To identify the most important enablers, obstacles and uncertainties, and
•To discuss other alternatives to RFID technologies.

The report found that tracking is the key RFID-enabling function in use. Applications include identification and authentification of patients as well as automatic data collection and transfer in clinical trials. The key barriers and obstacles to RFID's wider-scale implementation, include:

• Direct RFID costs;
• Privacy, security, data integrity and legal issues;
•Technical issues;
• Operational/managerial challenges, and
• Cultural and ethical concerns.

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Published on : Thu, 3 Sep 2009