A Safer Start: Code Scanner Powers L&D Breast Milk Administration

Large Hospital Group Prevents Milk Mix-Ups with Programmable Code CR2700

Note: Updated for 2025, this use case catalogs a hospital group's development of an expressed breast milk verification system based on Code's flagship, the CR2700 Barcode Reader. Before migrating to CR2700, the group deployed a successful bedside medication administration program powered by Code's CR2600 Barcode Reader.

In busy L&D units, matching expressed breast milk (EBM) from mother to newborn can be challenging. Hours-old infants are often indistinguishable and have intense feeding schedules — just one EBM mismatch can pose serious health risks.

To mitigate risks, Legacy Health Systems (Legacy) of Portland, Ore., partnered with Code. The goal: use Code's CR2700 Barcode Reader to develop a streamlined, barcode-based EBM Verification System that gets the right bottle to the right newborn at the right time.

Palm and handled versions of Code's CR2700 Barcode Reader

CR2700: KEY ADVANTAGES

Multi-Task Ready
Manage two distinct workflows with one scanner via two programmable buttons.

Custom Data Capture
Capture only necessary barcode data to ensure accuracy for EHR/HIS systems.

Night Shift Friendly
Switch from an audible beep to haptic vibration for quieter patient rounds.

ROI Booster
Reprogram and redeploy older scanners for new workflows to maximize budgets.

Fast Setup & Support
Configure devices quickly with QR codes or JavaScript, backed by U.S.-based support.

The Challenge
Mitigating Milk Mix-Ups

L&D clinicians passionately advocate for mothers and care for newborns; they're also acutely aware of the responsibilities tied to their work. Thus, preventing administration errors is essential for large systems like Legacy, serving 2.5 million Oregonians and Washingtonians.

The Background
Safer Rx Admin Begins with Barcodes

Previously, Legacy partnered with Code's U.S.-based application engineering team to develop a barcoded bedside medication administration (BMA) process so:

- Patients receive a uniquely barcoded identification wristband upon admission.
- Clinicians scan the wristband with Code's CR2700 before Rx administration to verify patient identity.

This proven BMA process cleared the way for Code's CR2700 to underpin Legacy's EBM identification system.

Scanning barcodes on expressed breast milk confirms a match or flags errors to protect newborns.

The Solution
Purpose-Built ID for Babies, Bottles

Code's reliable CR2700 scanner was ideal for a verification system thanks to 99.9995% scan accuracy. However, a JavaScript-powered platform differentiated Code by enabling Legacy's care teams to configure the scanner to parse specific data within a barcode and transmit it into a health information system (HIS).

Here's how Legacy and Code match mother, baby, and bottle:

Labeling at Admission: Mother receives a sheet of master barcode labels for EBM bottles. Newborn receives a matching barcoded wristband, and the unit floor station receives a matching sheet of verification barcode labels.

Expressing & Storing Milk: Mother applies a master barcode label to each bottle before refrigerated storage.

Retrieval & Verification: Clinician scans the master label on the bottle, then the verification label from admissions records.

- One beep = positive match
- Three beeps = mismatch/error

With aggressive data capture and POD-focused features, the CR2700 brings worry-free workflows to L&D clinicians

Portioning: Upon a match, milk is portioned into smaller bottles, each with a verification label, then returned to storage.

Feeding: Clinician logs into the HIS, scans the baby's wristband, then scans the milk bottle's verification label. HIS confirms a match (or flags a mismatch) before feeding. The process can be performed bedside for efficiency.

The Real-World Impact: Compliance without Shortcuts

Each clinician starts their shift by scanning a “check-in” barcode

The CR2700 then logs:

- Which clinician is on duty
- Check-in history
- Last eight EBM verification attempts and results
- Elapsed time from each check-in to verification attempt

To confirm EBM procedural compliance, supervisors connect to each CR2700 via Bluetooth® and retrieve workflow history.

Healthcare Benefits: Confident Newborn Care

Most newborns “cluster feed,” wanting several small feedings in close succession. Across a bustling L&D department, this frequency magnifies the risk of mix-ups. Through EBM verification, Code’s CR2700 allows Legacy’s clinicians to confidently focus on giving newborns the safe start they deserve.

Barcoded EBM is centrally stored; CR2700 scans each bottle to ensure the right milk goes to the right newborn.

Your Benefits: Multiple Inroads into L&D

Code can help you bring worry-free workflows to L&D clinicians

Our hospital-proven CR2700 is programmable to:

Multitask: complete two distinct data capture tasks, like Rx scans and specimen tracking, with one device.

Customize data capture: parse barcodes for specific data and transmit it to higher-level systems.

Maximize ROI: configure older Code devices to serve a different workstation or workflow, conserving health IT resources.

Contact your sales rep to explore how CR2700’s hospital-proven reliability and adaptability can help grow your healthcare presence.