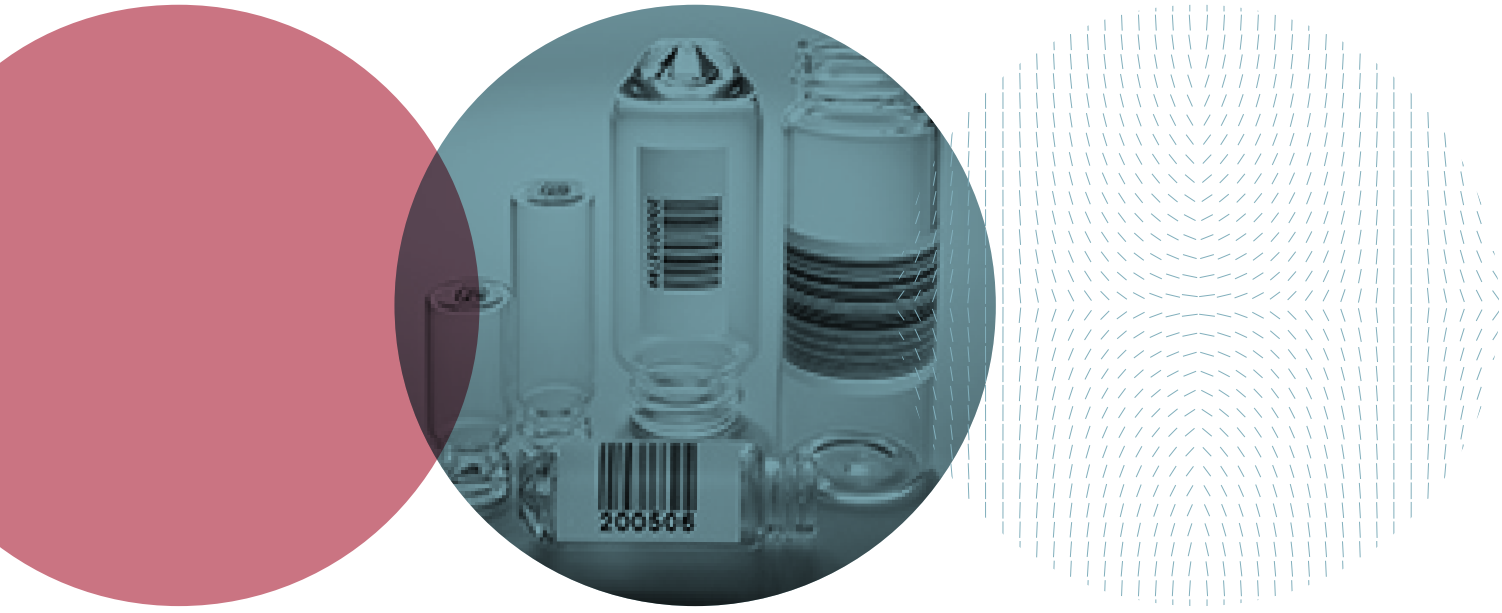
A CASE STUDY

Direct Mark barcode labels ensure dependable tracking to support research



COMPUTYPE®

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CUSTOMER BACKGROUND

Computype is currently partnering with a healthcare company pursuing a new project within the biobanking segment that involves gathering over thirty-five million biological samples from more than one million participants. The goal of this project is to track participants over months, years, and even decades in hopes that researchers will be able to discover new information about various diseases.

THE CHALLENGE

In order to proceed with the project, the company had to define a means of incorporating label automation into their process; with as many samples as they are planning to manage, electronic records were deemed necessary. Efficiency is also essential for a project like this; there is only a short time frame after surgery for tissue to be collected and properly preserved for later use.

The challenges regarding this project include utilizing solutions that have the ability to correctly and reliably mark each sample in the most ethical and efficient manner. With all of these criteria considered, the company discovered their need to find a solution that was proven to be more durable and precise than a standard pressure sensitive label. Additionally, standardized and proper care of samples is critical for any project that involves human tissue.

OUR SOLUTION

With a large presence in the healthcare industry, Computype has established a position in biopharma where their labeling solutions set high standards in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and research sectors. They are know to provide reliable and sustainable labeling solutions that accurately track processes.

In order to protect samples from contamination, which can occur if chemical surface treatments are being used on containers, Computype utilizes a unique method of direct mark technology that does not require surface treatment of the tubes. This method doesn't damage the structure of containers either. This guarantees the ethical and standardized handling of samples throughout the entire process.

Computype has offered a major benefit to this project through direct mark printing and duplicating capabilities; this is necessary in order for this company to work with the specific automation and storage racks being utilized for this project.

The automation aspect could be a challenge, given that these samples are available to many research labs, some with different test equipment than others. Some equipment is newer and capable of scanning the 2D barcodes, but older equipment doesn't typically have this capability and is only able to read a linear barcode. This is one of the reasons that a corresponding linear barcode is necessary in addition to the 2D code located on the bottom of each tube.

HOW COMPUTYPE HELPED

Additionally, Computype has the ability to properly duplicate the existing 2D barcodes and produce a corresponding 1D human readable mark on the outside of the tube to preserve the integrity of the samples.

This is necessary because human readable information and linear barcodes function as a redundant identification system, meaning that if the 2D barcode becomes damaged, two additional ways to identify the sample remain: either scan the linear barcode or read the human readable information.

This way, researchers are able to proactively follow the participants; for example, if in 10 years a participant develops a disease researchers can easily scan the barcode on the original sample and compare historical information attached to their tissue sample.

Through utilization of Computype direct mark technology, researchers are gaining the opportunity to start examining factors never seen before that cause diseases. We prioritize the integrity of our solutions into this space and will continue to provide reliable barcoding solutions to ensure samples remain reliable for future research purposes.