Who Administers Propofol in Your Organization? (Continued)


In the Fall of 2005, McNeil Consumer and Specialty Pharmaceuticals changed the packaging of its unit-dose TYLENOL (acetaminophen) 500 mg caplets for hospital use. The caplets, previously packaged in bright yellow packets, were switched to white packets to maximize accurate readability of the newly added bar code by scanning devices. Unfortunately, the new 500 mg packet looks virtually identical to the Tylenol 325 mg unit-dose packet (Figure 1).

Pennsylvania healthcare facilities have reported multiple mix-ups involving these products to PA-PSRS. Practitioners have reported to ISMP and the manufacturer that the striking packet-similarities can lead to confusion and may result in excessive doses in facilities that do not use point-of-care bar coding.1 As a result of all the reports received, the manufacturer will be returning to the familiar yellow packet reportedly in March 2006 that includes a bar code (Figure 2) and will continue to explore ways to improve scanning reliability while maintaining visually differentiated packaging.2

### The Changing Faces of Unit-Dose Tylenol Packets

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![Figure 1. “New” white 500 mg unit-dose packet (left) and 325 mg unit-dose packet (right) look-alike. Image provided courtesy of ISMP.](image1)

![Figure 2. Yellow Tylenol packet to return with barcode. Image provided courtesy of ISMP.](image2)

### Notes