

SpecimenTrak: a demonstration of the anatomical specimen tagging and tracking

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SpecimenTrak is an RFID-based Windows based system developed using the .NET Framework 2.0/3.0 at Wireless Internet for the Mobile Enterprise Consortium (WINMEC) RFID Lab, UCLA. It has two different modalities – ‘desktop’ station for preparation and administrative activities and ‘mobile’ station with secure wireless connectivity for locating and inventory audit. The architecture is modular and intuitive. It captures the logic of the process workflow and streamlines the activities of a standard anatomical materials program. The activities supported by the current version of SpecimenTrak from cataloging of specimens at the point of preparation through to disposal will be explained and demonstrated. Different features in each of the modules, which guide the personnel through the workflow, will be highlighted. The association of the unique tag ID and the specimen code which facilitates identification of the specimen based on different parameters such as facility, date of cataloging, type, and donor will be discussed at length. The other feature of precisely locating a specimen with respect to a container and facilitating inventory audits in real-time will be shown. Issues such as complete data capture, mitigation of protocol and practice oversight, securing and minimizing the misplacement and improving productivity will be discussed.

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