

# Interoperable RFID End-to-End Pilot Planning

## Goal – Compare Viability and Value Proposition of RFID vs. Barcoding

### Barcoding

- Default tool for all segments of the supply chain.
- Default tool to meet new aggregation requirements.
- Line of sight technology represents increased labor resources, slow downs, and is naturally prone to error.

### RFID

- Unfamiliar technology in pharma but increasing adoption in Retail and other Verticals (Walmart).
- Requires new capital and ongoing investments across the supply chain.
- An automated sensor-based approach yields fast and accurate business outcomes due to a reduction in human error and an increase in efficiency.
- Prevention of counterfeit and diversion as a result of an automated sensor-based system.



## Brainstorming Session Overview

The Axia Institute and Zebra launched the first meeting to discuss their Pharma Supply Chain End-to-End Pilot in a two-day event. Together they brought together several healthcare industry stakeholders and brainstormed the framework and logistics of the pilot. On the first day eAgile hosted the group at their facilities in Grand Rapids, MI where they showcased their radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, software, and hardware. The following day Axia Lab was toured, and participants were shown demonstrations of RFID traceability and packaging technologies along with the diversity in equipment arrangements needed for execution of the pilot.

## Session Participants



A brainstorming session was held at The Axia Institute Offices led by John Wirthlin of Zebra and John Hatfield of the Axia Institute. Key challenges were discussed such as the implementation of Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA), interoperability, and the current unit of measure disconnect in the healthcare industry. The session concluded with action items being identified to develop a pilot engagement to address these challenges.

This pilot is in its beginning stages and is open for additional stakeholder contributions. If interested please email, [jhatfiel@msu.edu](mailto:jhatfiel@msu.edu).



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