

**Running header:** Automation of in-hospital pharmacy dispensing

**Title:** Automation of in-hospital pharmacy dispensing: a systematic review

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## SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Table 1: Search strategy for Embase (Embase 1974 to 2017 December): accessed December 17th 2017

#	Searches	Results
1	exp hospital organization/	35859
2	exp hospital pharmacy/	13732
3	exp computer assisted drug therapy/	893
4	compounding.mp.	5216
5	exp automation/	97636
6	exp computer system/	24626
7	exp organizational efficiency/	1147
8	1 or 2 or 4	53656
9	3 or 5 or 6 or 7	121902
10	8 and 9	1022
11	((automat* or robot*) adj2 (dispens* or distrib* or vend*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword, floating subheading word]	1143
12	BCMA.mp.	693
13	((bar code or barcode) adj4 (assist* or admin*)).mp.	228
14	10 or 11 or 12 or 13	2880
15	limit 14 to yr="2000 -Current"	2336

Table 2: Data extraction table from the SR



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Table 3: Quality assessment

Author and year	Country	Study design	Selection bias	Study design	Confounders	Blinding	Data collection methods	Withdrawals and dropouts	Global rating
Anonymous, 2014	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Alonso, 2011	Spain	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Alvarez Diaz, 2010	Spain	PC	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Ardern-Jones, 2009	UK	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Barra, 2017	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Portelli 2018	Italy	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Beard, 2013	UK	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Bepko, 2009	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Caldwell, 2015	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Chapuis, 2010	France	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Chapuis, 2015	France	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Clou, 2017	France	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Cochran, 2016	US	PC	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Cottney, 2014	UK	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Cousein, 2014	France	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
De-Carvalho, 2017	Brazil	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Douglas, 2017	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Fanning, 2016	Australia	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Gomez de Travedo, 2015	Spain	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+

Author and year	Country	Study design	Selection bias	Study design	Confounders	Blinding	Data collection methods	Withdrawals and dropouts	Global rating
Helmons, 2012	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Hitti, 2012	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Hussey, 2014	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
James, 2013	UK	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Jimenez Munoz, 2011	Spain	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Kunkel, 2016	Germany	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Lo, 2014	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
McCarthy, 2016	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Mehta, 2016	Australia	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Noparatayaporn (2016), 2016	Thailand	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Noparatayaporn (2016 A), 2016	Thailand	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Noparatayaporn (2017), 2017	Thailand	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Oldland, 2015	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
O'Neil, 2016	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Palttala, 2013	NR	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Radparvar, 2016	NR	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Recuero Galve, 2016	Spain	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Risor, 2017	Denmark	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+

Author and year	Country	Study design	Selection bias	Study design	Confounders	Blinding	Data collection methods	Withdrawals and dropouts	Global rating
Risor, 2017	Denmark	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Rodriguez-Gonzalez, 2012	Spain	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Roman, 2016	Australia	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Silverstein, 2010	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Skalafouris, 2015	France	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Smidt, 2017	Unclear	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Summerfield, 2011	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Sutra, 2015	France	PO	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Temple, 2010	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Ward, 2012	US	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+
Weeks, Unclear	Australia	UBA	+	+	+	NA	+	NA	+

Abbreviations: CBA, controlled before-after study; prospective cohort study; PO, prospective observational; RSS, randomised simulation study; UBA, uncontrolled before-after study. ++, strong; +, Moderate; -, weak.

Table 4: Overview of the results for pharmacy-based automation technologies versus manual dispensing

Author, year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year system installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
Bepko 2009 UK (55)	ROBOT-Rx: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient private acute care hospital	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average error rate pre-intervention was 2.9% with higher rates (up to 4.8%) when staffing was reduced on weekends.</li> <li>The medication variance rate pre-intervention was 6.1 per 100 doses billed</li> </ul>	Estimated cost of preventable ADE due to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescribing: \$549,276</li> <li>Transcribing: \$169,008</li> <li>Dispensing: \$154,924</li> <li>Administration: \$535,192</li> </ul> Estimated total annual savings: \$1,408,400
Caldwell 2015 (24) US	Omnnicell®: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, five large US hospital sites	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First doses filled took 111 s less per dose.</li> <li>First doses filled cost US \$0.23 vs \$1.93 per dose (resulted in eight times lower first dose cost when dispensed from the ADC).</li> <li>Missing doses took 64 s less</li> <li>Returns took 25 s per dose less</li> <li>Time savings associated with using ADCs accounted for a total decrease of 35 labour hours per week, which resulted in a savings of US \$64,300 annually.</li> </ul>
James 2013 (33) UK	ARX Rowa™ Speedcase: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, 40 patient beds in two adjoining patient care areas	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rate of prevented dispensing incidents was significantly lower post automation: 0.28% (147/52,808) vs 0.64% (235/36,719), <math>p &lt; 0.0001</math></li> <li>No difference (<math>p = 0.277</math>) between the categories of error types of dispensing incidents</li> <li>A positive association existed between workload and prevented dispensing incidents both pre- (<math>r = 0.13</math>, <math>p = 0.015</math>) and post-automation (<math>r = 0.23</math>, <math>p &lt; 0.001</math>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Median dispensary workload pre-automation (9.20 items/person/h) vs post-automation (13.17 items/person/h, <math>p &lt; 0.001</math>)</li> </ul>
Noparataya porn 2016a (39)	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, large academic hospital	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total costs of the inpatient service under 100% manual and ADM systems dispensing 22.8% of inpatient</li> </ul>

Author, year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year system Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
Thailand					<p>prescriptions were 82.7 and 89.8 million baht/year, respectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The unit cost of inpatient prescriptions using the ADM system was 60.34 baht/prescription, which accounted for 8.5% higher than 55.59 baht/prescription of the traditional manual system.</li> <li>The proportions of labour cost (LC):material cost (MC):capital cost (CC) for the manual and ADM systems were 87.8:12.1:0.1 and 88.0:9.3:2.8, respectively.</li> <li>The sensitivity analysis result illustrated that the lower unit cost could be achieved if the ADM system covered at least 75% of all prescriptions. At the 75% coverage, the unit cost was 53.95 baht/prescription and the proportion of LC:MC:CC was 83.6:13.3:3.1.</li> </ul>
Noparataya porn 2016b (37) Thailand	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, large academic hospital	2014	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost of investment over 10-years was \$US 15,782,608 for manual system and \$US 17,632,232 for ADM system.</li> <li>Recently ADM system covered 220 types of tablets</li> <li>ADM covered only 22.83% of all prescriptions.</li> <li>The sensitivity analysis showed that if we covered 75% of all prescriptions by ADM, cost of investment over 10 years was \$US 15,737,803 thus we could save \$US 44,805, \$US 1,894,429 when compared with the manual system and ADM system, respectively.</li> </ul>
Noparataya porn 2017 (38) Thailand	YS-TR-406FDS: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, large academic hospital	2012	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By adding pharmacist roles on screening and verification under the ADM system, the ADM system required 117.61 FTEs of pharmacist time vs 46.84 before.</li> <li>Replacing counting and filling medication functions by ADM has decreased the number of pharmacy technicians to 55.38 FTEs vs 132.66 before.</li> <li>After the modified ADM system cancelled the return unused medication process, FTEs requirement for</li> </ul>

Author, year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year system Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
					pharmacists and pharmacy technicians decreased to 69.78 and 51.90 FTEs, respectively.
Skalafouris 2015(49) France	Rowa™ Vmax, Rowa™ Technologies: Management strategy for medication units free of secondary packaging (MUF-SP) vs no management strategy	Inpatient	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1576 drug units were returned to the pharmacy from the wards.</li> <li>• 40.6% were MUF-SP. Of these units, 45% were eligible for the RDU and saved €615.43 (86% of the price of the MUF-SP).</li> <li>• 22 different drugs were recycled, of which 19 were antibiotics.</li> <li>• The estimated average time required to generate the whole system was 108 s per item and cost €0.84 per item (including staff and consumables costs). The total cost of the process was €19.14.</li> </ul>
Summerfield 2011 (63) US	TUG pharmacy delivery robot: Robot vs manual dispensing	Inpatient-delivery to ICU units	2003	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of days available: overall unavailable time when robotic delivery systems could not be used: 3.4%– 5.1%</li> <li>• 45% of the unavailable time was due to UMMC infrastructure problems, with the most common issues related to elevators and the wireless network.</li> <li>• Reasons for the robot related unavailable time (17%) were the power supply (i.e., charging dock functionality) and cart issues (e.g., keypad functionality).</li> <li>• Mean ± SD time from order receipt to label printing dropped from 26 ± 7.8 minutes to 15.1 ± 8.3 minutes throughout the data collection period.</li> <li>• Mean ± SD order preparation time decreased from 13.1 ± 3.9 minutes to 8.9 ± 2.2 minutes (<math>p &lt; 0.001</math>) from pre-implementation to postimplementation, suggesting that the technicians used the saved delivery time to prepare medications.</li> </ul>



Author, year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year system Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean <math>\pm</math> SD order preparation time at two years postimplementation dropped to <math>7.4 \pm 4.1</math> minutes.</li> <li>• Mean <math>\pm</math> SD idle time for medications to be delivered (the time from medication checking by the pharmacist to the time the medications left the pharmacy) was reduced from <math>27.3 \pm 8.2</math> minutes to <math>23.1 \pm 5.8</math> minutes in the STC (pre-implementation to postimplementation).</li> </ul>
Temple 2010 (52) US	MedCarousel®: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After implementing CDT, the average accuracy rate for all refill dispense requests increased from 99.02% to 99.48%.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-implementation time studies revealed that technicians completed refill requests in 62 minutes vs postimplementation time 53 minutes (mean <math>\pm</math> SD number of doses restocked was similar <math>1444 \pm 215</math>)</li> <li>• The estimated labour savings comparing the pre-postimplementation time totalled 2.6 FTEs.</li> <li>• A net reduction of 2.0 technician FTEs was achieved.</li> <li>• The average turnaround time for stat medication requests using CDT was 7.19 minutes, and the percentage of doses filled in less than 20 minutes was 95.1%.</li> <li>• The inventory carrying cost was reduced by \$25,059.</li> </ul>
Weeks NR (66), Australia	Rowa™ Vmax, Rowa™ Technologies: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient and outpatient	2014	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post ADS there was a significant reduction in outpatients dispensing time (16.93 mins, <math>p=0.03</math>) and outpatient prescription processing time (266 mins, <math>p=0.00</math>)</li> <li>• Based on 7 months data remote pharmacist recalls would save \$ 13,200 pa against a forecast \$20,000 pa</li> <li>• Forecast pharmacy expired stock reductions did not achieve a reduction of \$17,000 but increased by \$6000.</li> </ul>

Abbreviations: ADC, automated dispensing cabinet; ADE, automated dispensing error; ADS, automated dispensing system; ADM automated dispensing machine; CDT, carousel dispensing technology; FTE, full-time equivalent; MUF-SP, Medication Units Free of Secondary Packaging; NR, not reported; SD, standard deviation.

Table 5: Overview of the results for ward-based automation technologies versus manual dispensing

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
Anonymous 2014 (22) US	CardinalASSIST® ADS: labour and inventory management system vs no system	Unclear	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>70% fewer medication errors associated with implementation of the system.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A potential cost avoidance of more than \$1.7 million associated with the implementation of the system (time-frame unclear).</li> </ul>
Ardern-Jones 2009 (53) UK	Medi365, Mediwell: ADS vs manual dispensing	ED	2005	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursing staff spent approximately 10.9% of their time on work activities related to medicines pre-automation and 12% post-automation (<math>p=0.234</math>) [7 month time-frame].</li> <li>The median time to acquire a dose of medication decreased from 139.5 s pre-automation to 44 s post automation (<math>p&lt;0.0001</math>).</li> <li>A mean saving of 46.5 min/week identified as nursing staff were no longer involved in stock replenishment.</li> </ul>
Portelli 2018 (67) Italy	Pyxis MedStation® 3500: ADS vs manual	Surgical unit (14 operating rooms)	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of registry corrections reduced from 232 in the pre-Pyxis period to 10 in the post-Pyxis period (a reduction of 95% over an 8 month time period).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of operating room staff required to undertake single activities related to the compilation of registries, drug stock, and expiration dates check was lower in the post-Pyxis period versus the pre-Pyxis period.</li> <li>The savings in staff time associated with the implementation of Pyxis estimated to correspond to savings of €4,120 and €3,730 for operating room staff and hospital pharmacy staff respectively over the 8-month time period.</li> <li>During the post-Pyxis period mean operating room stock quantities were reduced for all drugs compared with the pre-Pyxis period (approximately 50% reduction); estimated that</li> </ul>

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
					the reduction in stock quantities corresponded to a saving of approximately €22,300, while the impact of drug wastage avoidance was reported to be modest at €650.
Chapuis 2010 (57) France	OmniRx, Omnicell®: ADS vs manual dispensing	ICU	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total opportunities for error (TOE) were reduced in the intervention unit (13.5%) compared to the control unit (18.6%) post-intervention (<math>p &lt; 0.05</math>) while no significant difference was observed before implementation of the ADS (20.4% in the intervention unit vs. 19.3% in the control unit).</li> <li>• ADS led to a significant decrease in preparation errors from 3.8% to 0.5% (<math>p = 0.017</math>)</li> <li>• The ADS did not decrease picking and administration errors</li> <li>• Storage errors substantially decreased in the intervention unit (96% reduction; <math>p &lt; 0.01</math>) and the control unit (58% reduction, <math>p &lt; 0.01</math>).</li> <li>• Most errors (84%) were classified as causing no harm (categories C and D).</li> </ul>	NR
Chapuis 2015 (56) France	OmniRx, Omnicell®: ADS vs manual dispensing	ICU	NR	NR	<p>After ADS implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nurses spent less time on medication-related activities (mean 14.7 hours saved per day/33 beds).</li> </ul>

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pharmacy technicians spent more time on floor-stock activities (mean 3.5 additional hours per day across the three ICUs).</li> <li>Cost of drug storage was reduced by €44,298 and the cost of expired drugs was reduced by €14,772 per year across the three ICUs.</li> <li>Five years after the initial investment, the global cash flow was €148,229 and the net present value of the project was positive by €510,404.</li> </ul>
Clou 2017 (25) France	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, critical access hospitals	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post ADS implementation (after one year) the traceability rate was reported as excellent (100%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The introduction of ASD allowed a qualitative and quantitative decrease in stocks, with a reduction of 30% for purchased medical devices and 15% for implantable medical devices in deposit-consignment.</li> <li>Cost-benefit analysis showed a rapid return on investment.</li> <li>Real stock decrease (purchased medical devices) equivalent to 46.6% of investment.</li> </ul>
Cottney 2014 (27) UK	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatients, single-ward in a UK mental health hospital	NR	<p>The implementation of ADC led to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a 1.7% (95% CI: 0-3.5) reduction in error rate (<math>p=0.065</math>)</li> <li>a reduction in the mean dose administration time of 0.57 mins (95% CI: 0.17-0.97) [<math>p=0.006</math>]</li> </ul>	NR
De-Carvalho 2017 (58) Brazil	Pyxis®: ADS vs manual dispensing	ICU of a private tertiary hospital	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A non-statistically significant decrease in the mean number of events between pre- (<math>2.25 \pm SD 2.19</math> events/month) and post-</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The time spent on activities performed by nurses and administrative assistants decreased post implementation vs. a reported increase for</li> </ul>

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
				<p>implementation (1.46±1.39 events/month) of the ADD system reported (p=0.32).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No significant difference in ADEs occurring during drug dispensing (1.88 pre- vs. 1.23 post-intervention, p=0.34) and administration (0.38 pre- vs. 0.23 post-intervention, p=0.65).</li> <li>• A significant decrease (71%) in urgent requests was observed after implementing the ADD system when assessing the number of requests and the need for central pharmacy services during both periods</li> <li>• The number of products returned to the central pharmacy decreased by 30% during the ADD post-implementation period.</li> </ul>	<p>pharmacy assistants, resulting in a total reduction of 6.5 work hours per day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total cost of the ADD system included the cost of the device (R\$ 198,065.88; USD 85,153) and costs associated with cabinet-making and remodelling services (R\$ 8,000.00; USD 3,439.40).</li> <li>• The reduction in personnel costs totalled R\$ 33,598 (USD 14,444) per year during the first year post introduction of the ADD system.</li> <li>• Reduction in personnel costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2014, R\$ 35,480 (USD 15,254)</li> <li>○ 2015, R\$ 37,690 (USD 16,204)</li> <li>○ 2016, R\$ 41,942 (USD 18,032)</li> <li>○ 2017, R\$ 44,702 (USD 19,218)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Therefore, the initial investment paid off in 5 years, considering only personnel savings</p>
Douglas 2017 (29) US	Brand NR: ADS vs prior ADCS	Medical-surgical orthopaedic and oncology units	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median reduction of 40% across all units between scheduled and actual administration time for the pre- vs. post ADC implementation period (p &lt; 0.0001).</li> <li>• Reduction in medication time reduced for the following specialities (pre- vs post-implementation): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Medical-surgical unit, 14 to 11 minutes (p= &lt; .0001)</li> <li>○ Oncology, 23 vs 2 minutes (p= &lt; .0001)</li> <li>○ Orthopaedic, 30 vs 3 minutes (p= &lt; 0.0001).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	NR

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
Fanning 2016 (59) Australia	Omnicell®: ADS vs manual dispensing	ED	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1139 medication selections and preparations reported pre-intervention vs. 864 post-intervention</li> <li>• Implementation of ADCs in the new ED resulted in a 64.7% reduction in medication selection and preparation errors (post intervention 1.96% versus post intervention 0.69%, respectively, P=0.017).</li> <li>• All medication error types were reduced in the post intervention study period.</li> <li>• There was a non-significant impact on medication error severity, as all errors detected were categorised as minor (class 1 or 2).</li> </ul>	NR
Helmons 2012 (31) US	Pyxis® medstations: wholesaler-to ADS direct refill program vs no program	Inpatient-designated areas of a 386-bed medical centre	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data collected pre-and post-implementation were similar, except that medications were more frequently stored in a single-drug pocket during the post-implementation period (73% versus 51%, p&lt; 0.0001).</li> <li>• ADC refill errors decreased by 77% post-implementation, from 62 errors per 6829 refilled pockets (0.91%) to 8 errors per 3855 refilled pockets (0.21%) (p&lt; 0.0001).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were three instances of expired medications before vs. one expired medication after implementation of the program.</li> </ul>
Hitti 2012 (60) US	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	ED	2008	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Order to antibiotic administration time was reduced by 29 min post-intervention (55 min vs. 26 min, 95% CI 12.5–45.19).</li> <li>• Mean door-to-antibiotic time reduced by 70 min (167 min vs. 97 min, 95% CI 37.53–102.29).</li> </ul>

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The percentage of severely septic patients receiving antibiotics within 3 hours of arrival to the ED increased from 65% pre-intervention to 93% post-intervention.</li> </ul>
Hussey 2014 (32) US	Omnice <sup>®</sup> : ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient, 40 patient beds in two adjoining patient care areas	2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of patient-specific medication units dispensed over a 2-month period from the central pharmacy decreased from 6489 to 4408 units (32% decrease post inventory optimisation).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total cabinet inventory increased by 8% from 526 items to 567 items post-optimisation.</li> <li>When comparing the separate 2-month periods, post-inventory optimisation cost on the ADCs was reduced from \$11963.05 to \$6562.79 (45% reduction in costs on cabinets).</li> <li>The number of medication stock outs increased from 1.52 items per day to 1.56 items per day over the separate 2-month periods.</li> </ul>
Lo 2014 (35) US	NR: Adding IV antibiotics to ADS vs manual dispensing	Inpatient and outpatients	2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in total dispensing time not associated with a significant decrease in mortality (8% versus 4%, <math>p=0.33</math>) or LOS (<math>10 \pm SD</math> 12 days versus <math>12 \pm SD</math> 13 days, <math>p=0.39</math>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Significant 1.7-hour reduction in the mean <math>\pm</math> SD order-to-administration time (<math>4.5 \pm 4.1</math> vs. <math>2.9 \pm 2.5</math> hours, <math>p = 0.009</math>) for piperacillin-tazobactam first doses with the use of ADCs.</li> <li>Subgroup analyses showed significant reduction in the mean <math>\pm</math> SD scan-to-administration time (<math>3.3 \pm 3.4</math> vs. <math>1.7 \pm 1.5</math> hours, <math>p=0.001</math>) and release-to-administration time (<math>2.4 \pm 2.4</math> vs. <math>1.4 \pm 1.5</math> hours, <math>p=0.034</math>) with ADC.</li> <li>Mean <math>\pm</math> SD time from order to scan did not differ significantly between the pre- and post-ADC groups (<math>1.7 \pm 1.9</math> hours vs. <math>1.2 \pm 2.0</math> hours, <math>p=0.817</math>)</li> </ul>
McCarthy 2016 (36) US	Omnice <sup>®</sup> : Optimisation	Inpatient	2013	NR	Implementation of ADC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>reduced pharmacy technician labour requirements (estimated at \$2,728 annually)</li> </ul>

Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
	method vs no optimisation				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>substantially reduced the overall weekly stockout percentage (from 3.2% pre- vs. 0.5% eight months post-optimisation)</li> <li>associated with an improved mean medication turnaround time, and estimated cost avoidance of \$19,660 attributed to the reduced potential for product expiration.</li> </ul>
Mehta 2017, Australia (61)	Brand NR: ADS vs manual dispensing	ICU	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medication picking accuracy (percentage errors) improved for manual and robotic counts (1.47% and 0.74% respectively).</li> </ul>	Post -implementation of ADC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mean time processing and picking stock per pack reduced by 25% post-implementation (12 sec vs. 8 sec).</li> <li>Time spent per pack for delivery and refilling decreased by one fifth post-implementation.</li> <li>Significant reduction in time spent by pharmacist for checking controlled drugs e.g. morphine (12 mins vs. 5 mins).</li> <li>Mean frequency of stock-outs per month decreased by over 50% (27.33 vs. 12).</li> </ul>
O'Neil 2016 (41) US	Pyxis®: Optimisations of ADS vs no optimisation	Perioperative and labour and delivery setting	2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mean vend:fill ratios before and after optimisation were 4.43 and 4.46, respectively.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Total number of medications stocked in the eight machines reduced from 1273 in a designated two-month pre-optimisation period to 1182 in a designated two-month post-optimisation period, yielding a carrying cost saving of \$44,981.</li> </ul>
Radparvar 2016 (43) NR	Brand NR: ADS inventory management system vs baseline	Surgical intensive care unit and cardiac	NR	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible changes reported in monthly vend:fill ratios and stock-out percentages.</li> <li>Mean number of medications with loads and unloads &gt;2 per month decreased from 10 at baseline to 5 -analysis.</li> </ul>



Author year, country	Technology intervention: Comparison	Setting	Year Installed	Outcomes	
				Clinical	Economic
		acute care unit			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean number of expiring medications per month decreased from 57 at baseline to 44 post-analysis.</li> </ul>
Roman 2016 (62) Australia	Pyxis® Medstation: ADS vs manual dispensing	ED	2012	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mean time to retrieve any medication was 30.3 seconds (SD 47.4) in the pre- vs. 36.0 seconds (SD 25.1) in the post-implementation period (+5.7 seconds; <math>p &lt; 0.01</math>)</li> <li>• Results from qualitative staff survey indicated that knowledge of stock on the Imprest system improved in the post-implementation survey (<math>p = 0.03</math>) and that ADMs were associated with a reduced time selecting medications (<math>p &lt; 0.01</math>).</li> </ul>
Ward 2012 (64) UK	Pyxis® Medstation 3500: ADS vs manual dispensing	ED	NR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A similar proportion of patients received correct dosing of vancomycin pre- and post-implementation (44.8% vs. 41.2% respectively, <math>p = 0.770</math>).</li> <li>• Patients with an incorrect dose were most often under dosed. Before intervention, 15/16 (93.8%) incorrectly dosed patients were under dosed and after intervention 16/20 (80.0%) of incorrectly dosed patients were under dosed (<math>p = 0.477</math>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before intervention, 0% patients received vancomycin within 60 minutes from bed placement to drug administration vs. 14.7% post-intervention (<math>p = 0.040</math>).</li> </ul>

Abbreviations: ADC, automated dispensing cabinet; ADD, automated dispensing device; ADE, automated dispensing error; ADS, automated dispensing system; ADSM, Automated dispensing system for medical devices; ED, emergency department; ICU, intensive care unit; IV, intravenous; LOS, length of stay; NR, not reported.; SD standard deviation.