



Case Study: How Indiana Blood Center Safeguards Donor Identity and Better Enables a Safe, Constant, Stable Blood Supply



Blood centers must protect their donor information. BIO-key's solutions store a proprietary mathematical template of the finger image which cannot be reverse-engineered to reproduce the fingerprint, which secures all donors identities.

Overview

The Indiana Blood Center (IBC) is a vital link in Indiana's health care infrastructure, supplying more than 550 units of blood to more than 60 Indiana hospitals every day. This nonprofit community service organization was founded in 1952 to provide a continuous, safe and adequate supply of blood products and testing services.

IBC recognized the need to implement a cost-effective, accurate and convenient donor identification procedure, the first step in the blood collection process. This is a challenge faced by every blood center.

ID for positive identification, there is no chance of someone viewing the personal information on their ID. Since social security numbers are no longer needed as the unique donor identifier, they have been stripped from all donor records. And, because the fingerprint images are not stored, the identity of donors at mobile blood drives is secure.

When donors arrive to donate blood, they simply place their finger on a reader and BIO-key's software immediately reads the fingerprint and matches it against the Indiana Blood Center database of donors' fingerprint templates. The donor's identity is quickly established by a successful match.

The Solution

In the spring of 2008, the Indiana Blood Center was the first in the nation to deploy BIO-key's fingerprint identification technology as part of its donor check-in process.

Donors register by presenting their photo identification card, scanning their fingerprints and answering several questions. The solution assigns an identifier to each donor's record that is accessed by the person's unique fingerprint scan.

Once in the system, donors merely scan their fingerprint to establish their identity each time they donate with Indiana Blood Center. This protects their identity in several ways. Because donors will no longer need their photo

Conclusion

With BIO-key's fingerprint identification software, blood centers nationwide are streamlining their check-in process to:

- Reduce check-in time, lower operating costs and eliminate human errors
- Protect donor privacy, eliminating the need for donors to produce identification
- Cut risk of misidentification by quickly and positively identify donors and deferrals
- Eliminate duplicate donor IDs and aliases
- Grow donor rolls by offering an attractive, streamlined donor experience.

"Patients at more than 60 hospitals in Indiana rely on Indiana Blood Center donors for blood and blood components, making our volunteer donors the key in delivering on our life-saving mission."

"Fingerprint scanning technology safeguards donor identity and allows us to ensure a safe, constant and stable blood supply in Indiana."

Indiana Blood Center president and CEO Byron Buhner