

Timertag EHR integration guide

For hospital EHR, informatics and clinical systems teams · GDETP001 Rev A · October 25, 2026

Every Timertag label shows a GS1 DataMatrix on the nurse's phone once it is activated. Your unit's barcode scanners can read it, but your EHR needs a field to receive it. This guide explains what the code holds and what your team builds so nurses can scan it into the patient's record.

Test codes: try.timertag.com/ehr/test-codes.pdf has eight ready-to-scan test codes with the real GTINs.

What the code contains

The code holds two GS1 elements: (01) the GTIN for the label type and (21) a serial number unique to that label. It holds nothing about the patient, the nurse or the time.

Label type	GTIN (01)	What it's used on
Peripheral IV	09356681010014	PIVC extension sets
Urinary catheter	09356681010021	Urinary catheter drainage tubing or bag
IV admin set	09356681010038	IV administration sets
Dressing	09356681010045	Dressings

- **Serial (21):** 20 characters, uppercase letters A to F and digits 0 to 9. Treat it as case-insensitive.
- **Uniqueness:** each serial is unique within its GTIN, so GTIN plus serial identifies one label, and so one device, anywhere.
- **Order:** (01) comes first, then (21). Because (21) is last, there is no group separator in the code.
- **Same code every time:** a label always shows the same code, on every scan, from any phone.

Example, as printed under the code on screen:

```
(01) 09356681010014  
(21) 7F3A9C21B04E5D8A6C12
```

The element string your scanner passes on is 01 + GTIN + 21 + serial. A scanner set to send the GS1 symbology identifier prefixes it with]d2:

```
]d20109356681010014217F3A9C21B04E5D8A6C12
```

How nurses use it

The label carries a QR code that opens on any phone camera. The DataMatrix only appears after the label has been activated, so a scanned code always belongs to an activated label.

1. The nurse affixes the label to the device and scans its QR code with any smartphone.
2. The nurse taps once to activate it as the device is placed. Time in place, or the IV admin set countdown, starts from that tap.
3. The phone shows the active screen with the DataMatrix under **Scan into the EHR**.
4. The nurse scans the DataMatrix off the phone screen with the unit's barcode scanner, the same way they scan a wristband or a medication.

5. Any later scan of the label shows the same screen and the same code.

Hospital handheld scanners read the code straight off the phone screen. Nothing is typed by anyone at any step.

What your EHR team builds

Your EHR needs a place on the device's record that accepts a GS1 DataMatrix scan and stores what it holds. Timertag supplies the code; the build, and how it behaves, is yours.

Using Epic as an example, the natural home is the line, drain or device documented on the LDA avatar. Your Epic analysts will know which build approach suits your organization. Whatever the approach, it needs to:

1. **Accept the scan** in Hyperspace and on Rover, from the scanners your units already use.
2. **Parse the two elements:** (01) GTIN and (21) serial.
3. **Map the GTIN to the device type**, using the table above (for example, 09356681010014 to a peripheral IV).
4. **Store the serial on that device's record** as its Timertag ID.
5. **Record the time of the scan** as the documented time. The code carries no time, so the scan time is what your EHR keeps.
6. **Match later scans** of the same GTIN and serial to the same device record.

The same pattern applies in Oracle Health and other EHRs: a scannable field on the device record, the two elements parsed, the serial kept as the device's ID.

Timertag has no relationship with Epic Systems Corporation, and nothing in this guide is an Epic product, build or endorsement. Epic is used only as a familiar example.

Tracking each device through its life

Because GTIN plus serial is unique and never changes, your EHR can follow one device from placement to removal. What it does with each scan is up to your team.

Scan	What your EHR can do with it
First scan	Create or link the device record and take the scan time as the start time
Later scans	Recognize the same device and log each scan, for example at line checks or handover
Removal scan	Close the device record and take the scan time as the removal time

Your team decides how a scan is marked as a check or a removal, for example by the documentation activity the nurse is in when they scan.

Any alerts, reminders, worklists or reports, such as a dwell-time threshold or an overdue IV admin set change, are built and set in your EHR, to your hospital's own policies. Timertag sends nothing to your EHR and raises no alerts of its own.

The phone shows the code for 30 days after activation, or 90 days for a urinary catheter label, so a removal scan works for any device removed within that time. After that the label no longer opens.

Scanner setup

Most hospital scanners already read GS1 DataMatrix codes for medications and supplies. Check that yours:

- **Read GS1 DataMatrix** (ECC 200 with FNC1). The Timertag code is a true GS1 DataMatrix, not a plain DataMatrix.

- **Read from a screen.** Scanners in presentation or handheld mode read the code off a phone; turn the phone's brightness up if a scan is slow.
- **Pass the data your EHR expects.** Some builds want the]d2 symbology identifier, some want the raw element string. Set your scanners to match your build.

The code needs no group separator, so separator settings don't affect it.

Testing your build

- **Test codes:** [Timertag EHR test codes](#) is a one-page PDF of eight GS1 DataMatrix codes, two for each label type. They carry the four real GTINs and serial numbers reserved for testing, which are never issued on a label. Scan them off the page or a screen.
- **See the workflow:** try.timertag.com has a working demo of each label type. Its sample codes use placeholder GTINs, so use the test codes for your build.
- **Check before go-live** that the first scan creates the device record, a second scan of the same code finds it, a different code makes a different device, and a removal scan closes the record, on every scanner model your units use.

What Timertag does and doesn't do

Timertag does	Timertag doesn't
Show the DataMatrix on the phone after activation	Connect to, send data to or receive data from your EHR
Give every label a unique, unchanging ID	Hold any patient information
Show time in place or an IV admin set countdown on the phone	Record who scanned a label
Keep a label active for 30 days from activation, or 90 days for urinary catheters	Raise alerts or reminders

There is no interface for your IT team to install, and no app or account for nurses. Data only flows one way, from the phone screen into your scanner. Timertag never creates, receives, holds or sends protected health information, so no business associate agreement is needed.

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