

Laser Wristband Solution vs. Thermal Wristband Solution

Direct thermal patient identification wristbands are the most durable barcode wristbands available. This technology uses heat to burn the image onto the surface of the wristband. Unlike laser style wristbands, thermal wristbands do not require a laminate to protect patient information. Thermal barcode technology allows you to achieve the finest lines required for accurate barcode printing and scanning and it is less costly and easier to assemble than the traditional laser style wristbands.

- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands are durable and long lasting making them the most sought-after barcode wristbands available.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristband printers print the finest lines required for accurate barcode printing and scanning, thus providing excellent first time scan grades.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands are highly resistant to soap and water, therapy baths, blood, alcohol and iodine.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands provide maximum patient comfort because they feature a contour shape.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands are latex and phthalate-free making them safe for patients, caregivers and the environment.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands meet AHA, HIPPA and The Joint Commission (JCAHO) requirements for patient identification.
- Conf-ID-ent™ direct thermal wristbands are the most cost-effective patient identification solutions available.

Direct Thermal Printers

- Easy to install and operate - no ribbon to install, no toner or developer to purchase, no labels to jams your printers.
- Small space saving design - most thermal printers are the size of your telephone and can fit at any nursing station, even where space is limited.
- Excellent first time scan grades – Direct thermal barcode printers produce extremely sharp, high contrast, high resolution barcodes with excellent first time scan grades.
- Barcode Symbologies – Print linear (code 39, 128 or 2D) barcodes.
- Print on demand – Print only the amount of wristbands needed without the waste of printing excess labels.

The Economical Benefits of a Thermal Wristband Solution

It is important to review several contributing factors when analyzing the benefits of choosing one patient identification solution over another:

What is the true cost of the media?

How much will your facility truly spend on the media you're considering?

What is the cost per band?

Are there additional accessories that you must factor into the cost in order to use this wristband?

What is the true cost of the printer?

How much will it cost to maintain?

Does the cost include items such as toner, maintenance kits, developer replacement, ribbons, etc.?

Many of these items have a predetermined life span. (Example: black toner = 12,500 pages; maintenance kit = 170,000 pages; etc.)

What is the true cost of ownership?

How valuable is the employee's time when they are dealing with a printer jam or a cartridge that needs to be replaced?

Will your new wristband solution allow you to consolidate wristbands?

How much money could your facility save by cutting out the expense of multiple wristbands?

What is the true cost per band?

Laser Wristband Solution:

Industry average cost per band: \$0.26 band/label combo sheet.

Thermal Transfer Wristband Solution:

Industry average cost per band: \$0.19 each (including the cost of the ribbon).

Direct Thermal Wristband Solution:

Industry average cost per band: \$0.16 each

Are there additional accessories that you must consider the cost of in order to use this wristband?

Ribbons, labels, embossers, etc.

True Cost of the Printer

How much will it cost to maintain and operate the printer associated with your wristband solution?

Laser printer solution:

A laser printer requires supplies including toner and maintenance kits.

The average black toner cartridge lasts approximately 12,500 pages and costs approximately \$156.00 to replace. (How many times would you need to replace your toner based on the number of wristbands you will be printing? What would that cost be?)

The average maintenance kit lasts approximately 170,000 pages and costs approximately \$268.00 to replace. (How many times would you need to replace your maintenance kit based on the number of wristbands you will be printing? What would that cost be?)

A facility can easily spend \$1,000.00 a year or more per laser printer just on maintenance.

Thermal printer solution:

A thermal printer requires no toner or maintenance kits. A thermal printer only requires a print head replacement at much higher intervals.

The standard thermal print head is built to last approximately 250,000 wristbands. (Based on the number of wristbands your facility will print, how many times would you need to replace the print head?)

The average thermal print head costs approximately \$245.00. (Based on the number of wristbands your facility will print, what would your estimated annual cost be?)

True Cost of the Time it Takes Staff to Use the Printer

What dollar amount can you associate with your employee's time when there is a paper jam or a cartridge that needs to be replaced?

Estimate for yourself:

- How many nurses does your facility have? (Example: **50**)

If each nurse spends **15 minutes** each month struggling with a paper jam or replacing a toner cartridge, how many minutes does that equate to in one month? (Example: 50 nurses x 15 minutes = **750 minutes or 12.5 hours**)

If the average nurse makes approximately \$22.00 per hour, how much would the time spent struggling with a paper jam or replacing a toner cartridge cost? (Example: 12.5 hours x \$22.00 = **\$275.00**)

The hospital in this scenario is spending \$275.00 per month on staff struggling with paper jams or toner cartridge replacements. This equals **\$3,300.00** per year!

With a thermal printer, the amount of time spent by staff on maintenance is greatly reduced. This is due to the fact that a thermal printer **does not require toner** cartridges and has virtually **no moving parts** making it much **easier to use and maintain.**

Will your new solution allow you to consolidate your admit and alert wristbands?

How many wristbands are your patients wearing?

- Upon admittance, approximately 60% of all patients will be denoted with an Allergy Alert and a Fall Risk.

- Upon admittance, approximately 20% of all patients will need to be denoted as a DNR.

Blood specimens are drawn and wristbands are applied to identify specimens on approximately 60% of all patients.