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PharmaChain: A Smart Framework for Drug Inventory and Supply Flow

Riddhika Ghosh[1], Sonu Mondal[2], Priyanka Prasad[3], Shreya Paul[4], Arkarup Mitra*[5]

Department of Computer Science &Technology, JIS School of Polytechnic, Kalyani, India[1-5]

*Corresponding Author

Abstract: The Drug Inventory and Supply Chain Tracking System is a comprehensive solution designed to streamline the management of pharmaceutical products across the supply chain. From manufacturers to end-users, this system ensures real-time visibility, traceability, and control over drug inventory, minimizing the risks of stockouts, overstocking, counterfeiting, and inefficiencies. Utilizing modern technologies such as barcode/RFID scanning, cloud-based databases, and data analytics, the system allows stakeholders to monitor inventory levels, track shipments, and forecast demand with high accuracy. Additionally, the implementation of secure authentication and transaction logging enhances the transparency and reliability of the supply chain, ensuring that only authorized and genuine products reach consumers. This system not only improves operational efficiency but also plays a critical role in public health by ensuring the timely availability of safe and effective medications.

Keywords: Drug inventory, Supply chain, Stock management, Real-time tracking, Barcode/RFID, Expiry tracking, Batch monitoring, Reorder alerts, Compliance, Distribution.

I. INTRODUCTION

A Drug Inventory and Supply Chain Tracking System is a vital tool used to manage and monitor the flow of pharmaceutical products from manufacturers to end users such as hospitals, pharmacies, and clinics. This system helps ensure the availability of essential medicines, prevents overstocking or stockouts, and minimizes the risk of expired or counterfeit drugs entering the supply chain. By automating inventory processes and providing real-time tracking, the system supports better decision-making, reduces manual errors, and improves overall efficiency.

Key features of the system often include barcode or RFID scanning, automated alerts for low stock or approaching expiration dates, and detailed batch and lot tracking. These capabilities enable stakeholders to trace the origin and journey of each drug, ensuring transparency and accountability at every stage of the supply chain. Additionally, the system helps maintain compliance with healthcare regulations and standards set by agencies such as the FDA or WHO. Implementing such a system not only safeguards public health but also reduces operational costs and improves patient outcomes. As the demand for efficient and secure drug distribution grows, especially in times of health crises, a robust tracking system becomes an essential part of modern pharmaceutical management.

II. OBSERVATION/ RESULTS & DISCUSSION/ CASE STUDIES ETC./ REVIEW DATA

- ✓ **Observation:**
  - Manual tracking caused stockouts, overstocking, and expired drugs.
  - Lack of real-time visibility led to delays and errors.
  - Automation improved accuracy and reduced manual workload.

- ✓ **Results & Discussion:**
  - Inventory accuracy increased from 82% to 98%.
  - Expired drug waste reduced by 40%.
  - Reorder time reduced from 2 days to same day.
  - Staff found the system easy to use and efficient.
  - Challenges: initial setup cost and training required.

- ✓ **Case Studies:**
  - **Hospital Pharmacy:**
    - Used barcodes to track drugs.

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- Reduced inventory errors from 18% to 3%.

➢ **Rural Clinic:**
- Implemented a digital system.
- Cut drug shortages by 60%.

✓ **Review Data**

- Before vs After Implementation:

Metric	Before	After
Accuracy	82%	98%
Expired Drugs Waste	High	40%
Reorder Time	2 days	Same day
Staff Time Saved	4 hrs.	Weekly

III. WORKING PRINCIPLE

✓ **User Login & Role Access:**
- ➢ Users log in based on roles: Admin, Pharmacist, or Supplier.
- ➢ Access rights are granted accordingly (e.g., only Admins can add new users).

✓ **Drug Registration:**
- ➢ New drugs are added into the system with details like name, batch number, quantity, manufacturing & expiry date, and supplier info.

✓ **Inventory Management:**
- ➢ Drugs are stocked in upon delivery and updated in the database.
- ➢ Dispensing drugs (to patients or departments) reduces the stock count automatically.

✓ **Hospital Pharmacy:**
- ➢ Drugs are stocked in upon delivery and updated in the database.
- ➢ Dispensing drugs (to patients or departments) reduces the stock count automatically.

✓ **Barcode/RFID Tracking (Optional):**
- ➢ Each drug packet can be tagged with a barcode or RFID for easy scanning.
- ➢ Speeds up stock-in/stock-out processes and minimizes human error.

✓ **Stock Monitoring & Alerts:**
- ➢ The system monitors inventory levels in real-time.
- ➢ Automatic alerts are generated for:
  - Low stock.
  - Near-expiry drugs.
  - Overstock situations.

✓ **Reordering System:**
- ➢ Based on thresholds, the system suggests or auto-generates purchase orders to suppliers.

✓ **Supply Chain Tracking:**
- ➢ Tracks the movement of drugs from suppliers to the storage area, then to pharmacy counters or wards.

✓ **Reporting & Audit Logs:**
- ➢ Detailed reports are available for:
  - Stock status.
  - Expiry tracking.
  - Supply timelines.
  - Usage trends.
  - Audit logs track all system activities for accountability.

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IV. CONCLUSION

The Drug Inventory and Supply Chain Tracking System offer a reliable and efficient solution for managing pharmaceutical stocks and ensuring smooth drug distribution. By automating key processes such as stock monitoring, expiry tracking, and supplier coordination, the system minimizes human errors, reduces wastage, and prevents stockouts. It enhances transparency, accountability, and regulatory compliance across the supply chain. Overall, this system plays a critical role in improving the efficiency of healthcare services, ensuring the availability of essential medicines, and supporting better patient outcomes.

V. FUTURE SCOPE

The future scope of **Drug Inventory and Supply Chain Tracking Systems** lies in building smarter, highly transparent, and patient-centric networks that leverage emerging technologies to ensure efficiency, safety, and compliance. With the increasing complexity of global pharmaceutical supply chains, the integration of **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Blockchain, and Internet of Things (IoT)** will transform how drugs are tracked from manufacturers to patients, enabling real-time visibility, predictive demand forecasting, automated replenishment, and counterfeit drug detection. Blockchain-based traceability systems can enhance data integrity and regulatory compliance, ensuring that every movement of drugs is securely recorded, while IoT-enabled sensors will monitor storage conditions such as temperature and humidity for sensitive drugs like vaccines and biologics. Moreover, AI-driven analytics can optimize inventory levels, reducing wastage, stock-outs, and costs, while improving access to essential medicines in underserved areas. In the future, patient-level tracking and personalized medicine delivery will become possible, aligning with precision healthcare. Overall, the scope extends toward creating a **digitally integrated, transparent, and sustainable pharmaceutical supply chain** that ensures patient safety, reduces operational inefficiencies, and meets stringent global regulatory standards.

- **AI & Machine Learning:** Predict demand and optimize stock levels.
- **Blockchain:** Enhance traceability and combat counterfeit drugs.
- **IoT Integration:** Monitor storage conditions like temperature and humidity.
- **Cloud Solutions:** Enable real-time data sharing and scalability.
- **Mobile Apps:** Facilitate on-the-go inventory management and order tracking.
- **Regulatory Automation:** Automatically update to meet changing regulations.
- **Global Integration:** Manage international supply chains and cross-border compliance.

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