



Quality Assurance: The Use of Personal Digital Assistants in Collecting Drug Inspection Data*

R. Sangeda,¹ L. Mshana,² M. Ngemara,² R. Donna,³ H. Kraushaar,⁴ A. Speed,⁴
W. Mfuko,⁴ and P. Risha⁴

¹Faculty of Pharmacy, Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences

²Tanzania Food and Drugs Authority

³SATELLIFE

⁴MSH/SEAM

In order to speed the acquisition of data by TFDA inspectors and reduce typographical and data entry errors, a personal digital assistant (PDA)–based data system has been devised. Databases containing the inventory of approved drug products, approved manufacturers, and approved importers are downloaded to the PDAs, and inspectors menu-pick the correct entries. The Port of Entry, Premises Inspection, and Surveillance Program Forms have been programmed into the PDA, and inspectors are guided through the inspectional process. The PDA implementation has markedly reduced the time necessary to perform inspections, has decreased data entry time, and has eliminated the errors previously made during manual data entry. The PDA-acquired database elements entered during inspection are downloaded into the TFDA Access database for storage, report writing, and retrieval.

* Poster originally displayed at the SEAM Conference 2003.