



IRIS RECOGNITION

Frequently asked questions

Q: What is a Biometric?

A: Certain biological features of the human body can facilitate identification and these include fingerprint, hand geometry, voice and iris and facial recognition.

Q: How does it work?

A: The iris of each eye of each person is unique. Of all the people ever born on this earth, more than half of them are alive today and no two irises are alike in their mathematical detail. This even applies to identical twins. Iris images captured for enrolment and later recognition are easily obtained but to optimise privacy and security they are not retained as photographs. No other biometric technology can rival the combined attributes of mathematical certainty, speed, privacy and non-invasive operation offered by iris recognition.

The Iris Code creation process starts with video-based image. This image is then processed and encoded into a digital record, which is stored in a database and the original image is discarded. This stored record is then used for identification when an iris is presented for matching i.e. when you look into the camera to receive your medications; your iris is captured, coded and compared to the entire database. Therefore, you must be enrolled before getting dosed!

In summary, iris recognition is:

- An award winning patient ID system
- No requirement for carrying cards or remembering PIN's
- Is more accurate than DNA matching. No recorded instance of a false accept
- Uses identification which checks the entire database not just the first match
- Works with glasses, most sunglasses, protective clothing, safety shields and contact lenses
- Iris images are not colour dependent
- Iris patterns are stable over life. One enrolment only required.
- Is non-invasive and non-contact. Uses video based technology and has extremely fast database matching (match rates in excess of 100,000 persons per second achieved on a standard PC)

Q: Can repeated iris scanning damage my eyes?

A: No. Iris scanning is simply taking a photo of your iris – it is not a laser. It is a standard digital video camera such as is used to take home video. Many studies have been done and a paper has been published by the American College of Ophthalmology showing there is no evidence that suggests this process is damaging to your eyes.

Q: Is iris scanning an invasion of my privacy?

A: No. Iris scanning does not provide us with any information about your health or behavior. The patterns of the iris are completely random and are stored as numbers (otherwise known as mathematical files). None of your personal information is kept with the mathematical file. It has been described at a federal level that this technology actually enhances your privacy.

Q: Can someone ever steal a photograph of my iris?

A: No. Once we have developed these mathematical files we discard your iris image. And an image can never be retrieved from the mathematical file, which means if the data is stolen, it will be totally useless and it has no useable information about you in it or connected to it.

Q: Can you explain FALSE accepts compared to FALSE rejects?

A: False accepts occur when the biometric used such as fingerprints, voice or hand geometry may be adjusted to minimal sensitivity and falsely identify as another person. This has never occurred with Iris Recognition. False rejects can occur in a similar but opposite fashion, when the sensitivity of the biometric technology is so high that a piece of dirt on a finger or hair across and iris will not identify that person. It is critical that a “good enrolment” occurs and operators of this process are aware of image quality and the variables mentioned above. This is why FOUR images of each eye are recorded to obtain the best to save and encode into the mathematical file.

Q: Can authorities demand a photograph of my iris?

A: Some may argue you cannot block the courts or the legal system from demanding certain information and for all reasons foremost of which is your security, the photographs of your iris are not retained anywhere but discarded immediately after encryption. These photographs are converted into a mathematical file and encrypted for further security. Matching occurs by comparing new un-encrypted mathematical files with EVERY other file on the database NOT just the first match. Therefore, these mathematical files are of no use to any organization or person individually.

Q: Is my Iris Code part of my medical records?

A: Yes. The privacy provisions of the various States and Federal Government acts protect medical records.

Q: Is there a procedure for Iris enrollment I should follow?

A: Four images are captured of each eye and the person should be about 20cm from the camera and look straight (face parallel to the mirror) NOT on an angle or through the eyelashes or eyebrow hair. We are NOT enrolling this HAIR just the permanent pattern of your Iris. It helps if you FIX your attention on a POINT on the mirror (screen) such as your pupil or a corner of the square (in which you position the eyeball). This stops the eye wandering around the screen and slowing the image capture process.

Q: Can someone with one artificial or severely damaged eye be enrolled?

A: There is a procedure for only enrolling one eye but where two eyes are available they must both be used. This is because each eye is unique and the same one would need to be used always as in a single eye enrollment and thus limit the system flexibility.

Q: Are there better processes or techniques for using the Iris camera?

A: Yes. If the person focuses on a particular point such as the pupil (dark part in the middle of the iris) or part of the square on the mirror, this stops the eye wandering about the screen and speeds up image capture and ID. Never have your chin tucked down but have the head facing and square to the camera to avoid hairs from the lashes and brow becoming part of the image.

Q: Will you be sharing this information with others?

A: No. The data is solely to be used for Medical Records security. Your institution and software providers will comply fully with all relevant privacy legislation regarding this service

Q: What is the primary purpose of using Iris Recognition Technology?

A: Patient safety in avoidance of misidentification. Reducing the stress to pharmacists and nurses in operating daily dosing programs and ensuring no medical misadventures can occur.

