Northwell Health Laboratories
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RALS Masking Configuration for AccuCheck and other POCT Devices

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Approval Date:			

Bi-Annual Review/ Revisions

Date	Signature	Date	Signature

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Procedure Name: RALS Masking Configuration for AccuCheck and other POCT Devices

Purpose

This procedure provides instructions for the appropriate performance of RALS patient ID configuration mapping for the AccuChek and other POCT devices that utilize the patient CSN (FIN) or MR# for unsolicited testing using connectivity

Principle

RALS™ DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

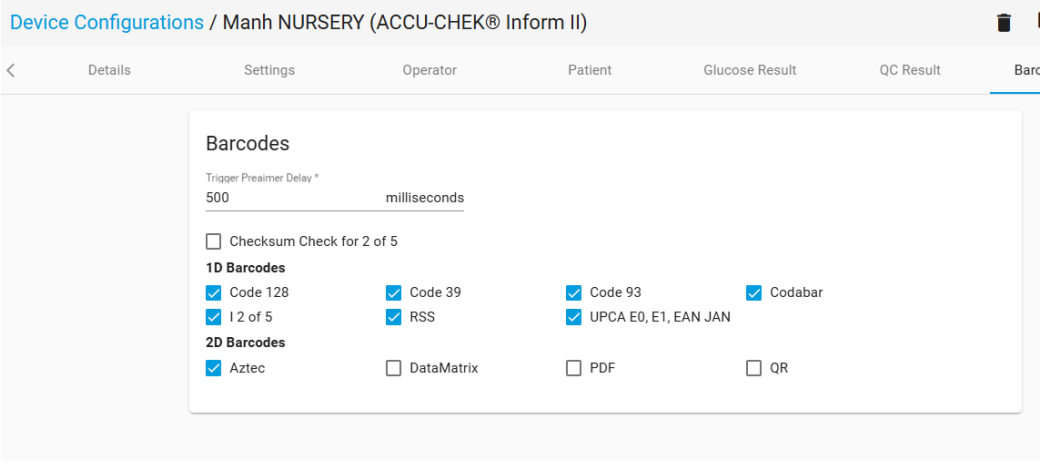
For more than 25 years, the name RALS has been synonymous with data management for point-of-care testing (POCT). Today, with more than 2,000 hospitals using RALS to manage their POCT programs, RALS remains a leader in connectivity with features that include:.

- Web-based platform, vendor-neutral system that connects POCT devices used every day in health care settings
- Entry of manual / lateral-flow test results directly into RALS and sent to LIS / EHR
- Direct-to-device connectivity or via device-specific data manager
- Personalized dashboards for at-a-glance look at the health of your system and track performance indicators

Barcode Masking (AccuChek)

One special functionality RALS has is a 1D and 2D barcode mapping to capture a wide variety of barcode symbologies.

The 1D and 2D symbology that can be programmed in RALS to the device are the following:



The user can select or deselect the symbologies for their institution and location in the Device Configuration module

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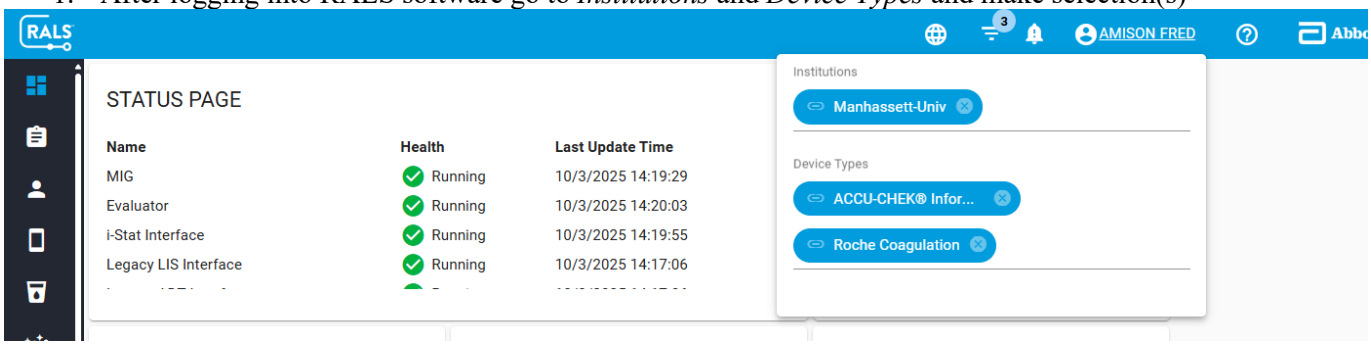
NOTE: If the 1D and 2D barcodes do not have any checks for the barcode type, then that barcode cannot be scanned on the meter

Procedure for setting up barcode masking in RALS

1. After logging into RALS software go to *Institutions* and *Device Types* and make selection(s)



2. Click on  near bottom of far left column, then move mouse over to column that appears and select *Device Configuration*

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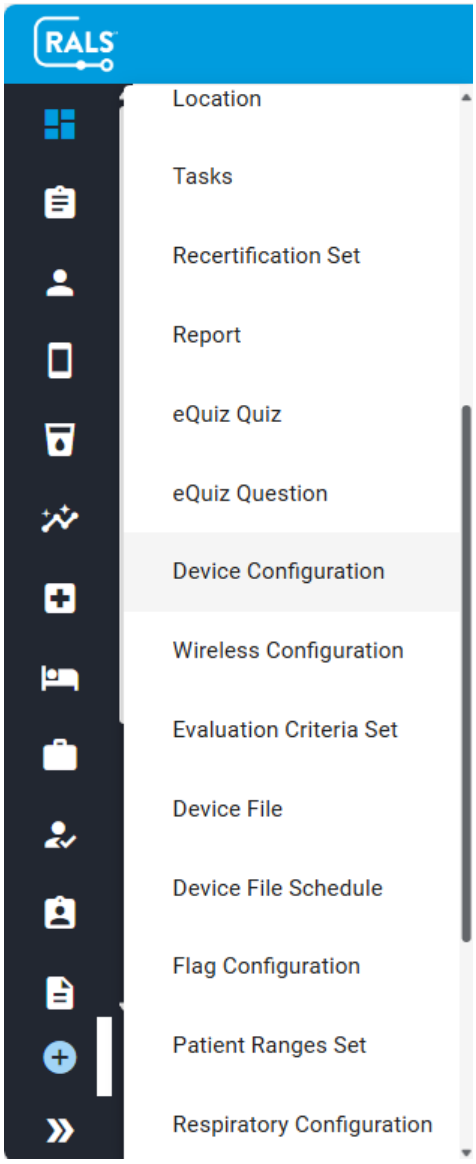

3. To choose previously constructed device configurations, click on Device Configurations

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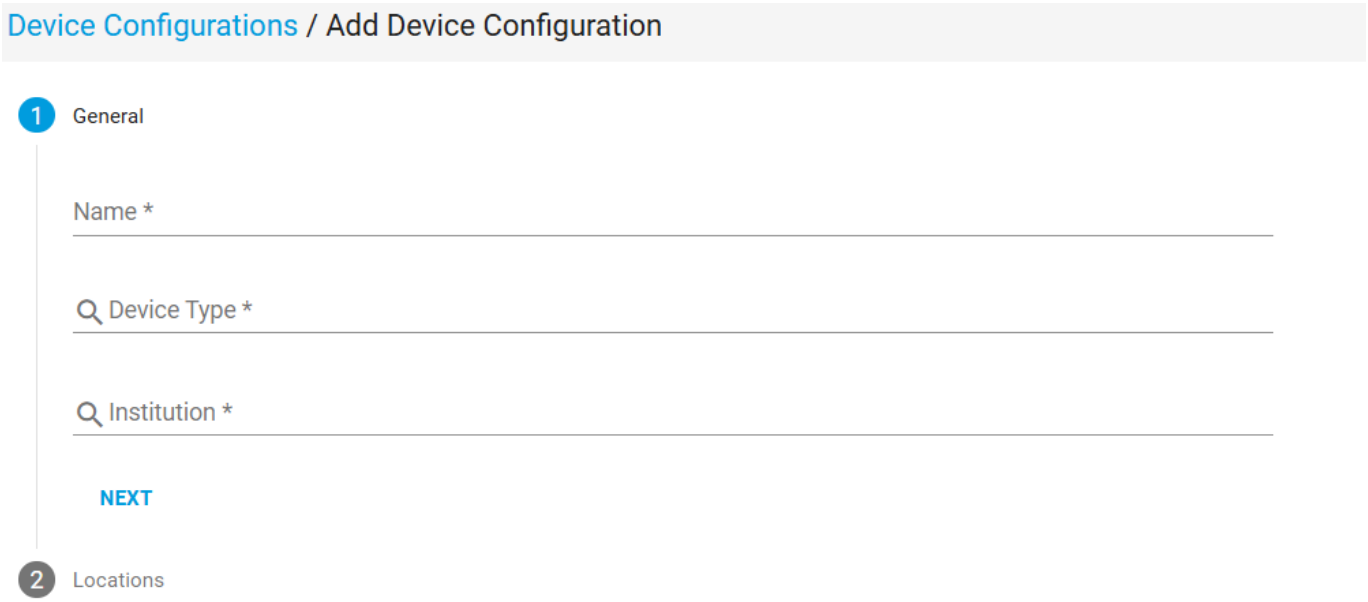
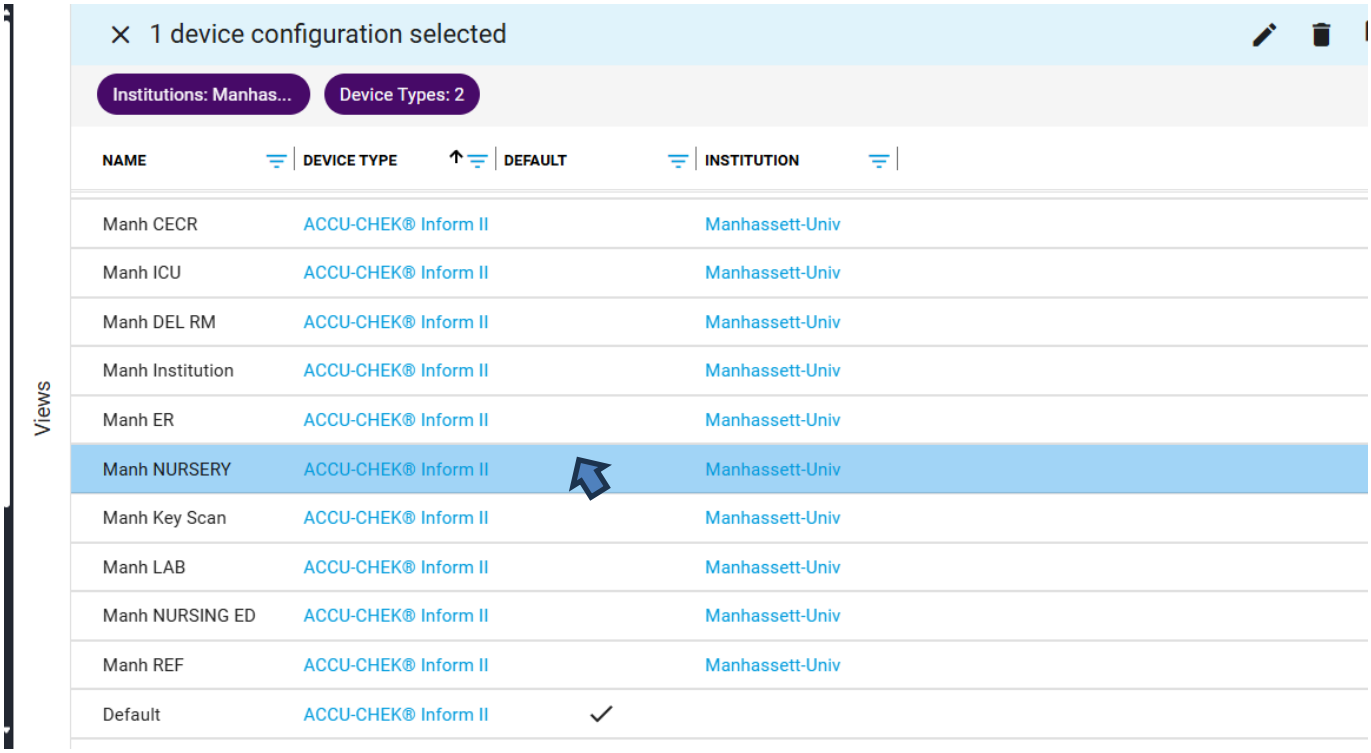


4. Find the Device Configuration for your location; if you do not know what configuration your location is listed in, then each configuration will have to be reviewed to find your location:
Click on configuration row (the row will turn blue). Mouse pointer has to be inside clearing in blue area



Immediately right click and choose *Edit*

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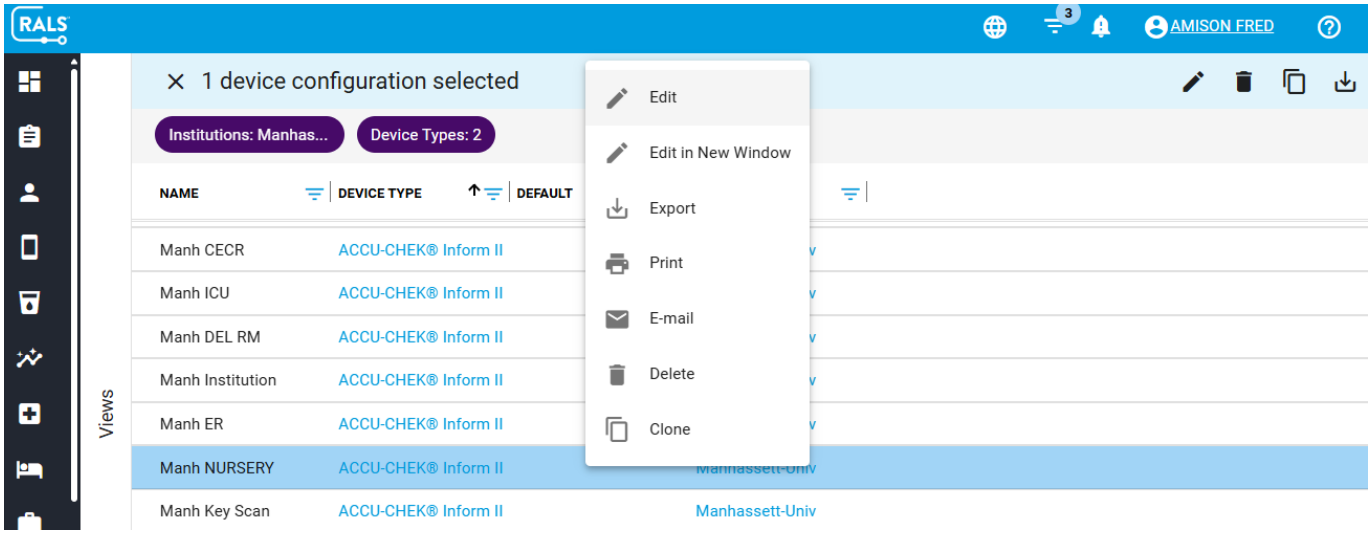
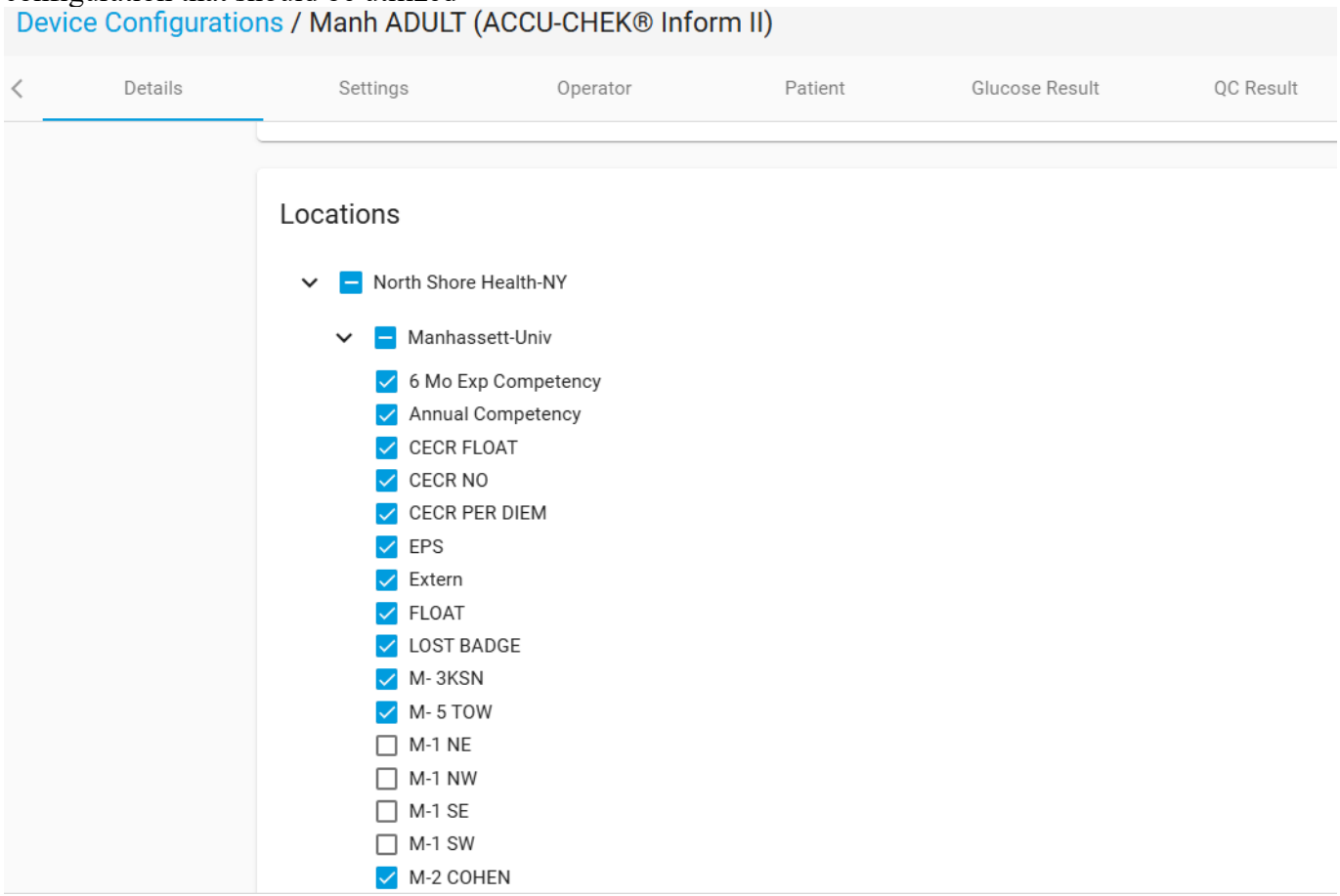


Go to Locations and expand list to find all locations listed; if your site is listed, then this is the configuration that should be utilized



If your device location is not highlighted

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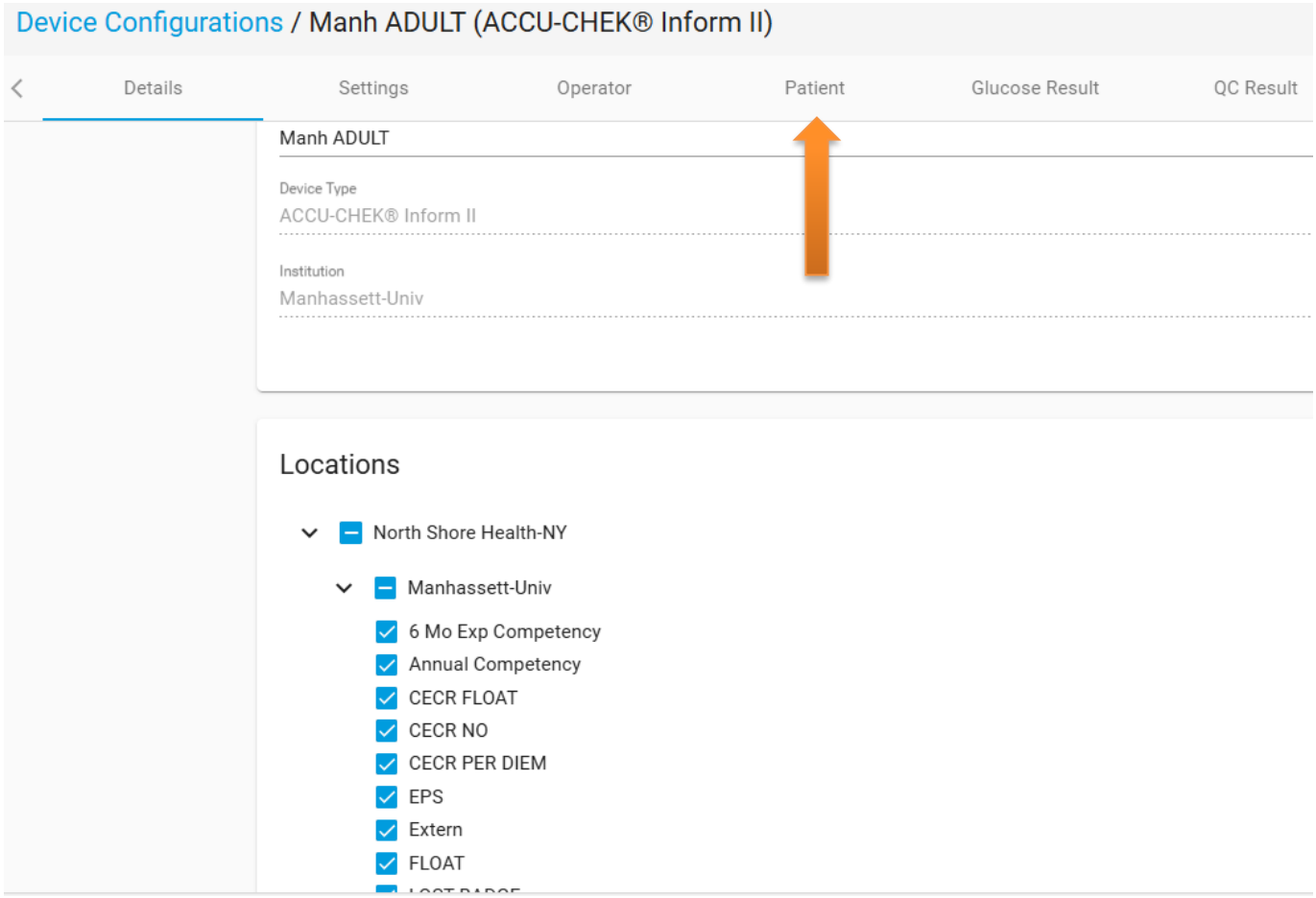
Hit Device Configurations to exit above screen; go to next configuration and repeat process of looking for your location

When you find your location highlighted then you are in the configuration to control your meter

Click on *Patient* tab



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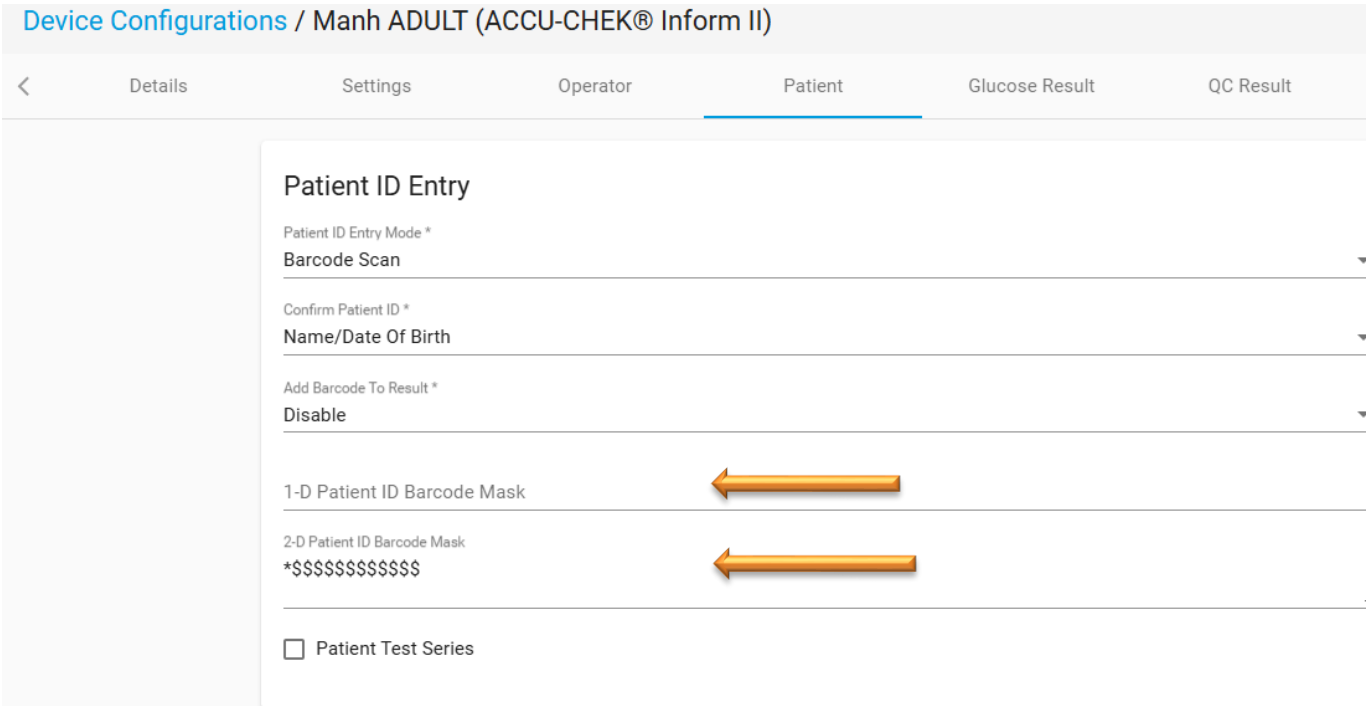
Your 1D and 2D Patient ID Barcode Mask rows are present



Using masking symbology

The masking characters are:

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Device Configuration

The system supports 1-D barcode masking of up to 60 characters and 2-D barcode masking of up to 300 characters, according to the following conventions:

A-Z, 0-9	If not preceded by the caret (^), the scan data character must be the same as the mask character. This character is not saved as part of the ID. If the characters are not the same, the scan data is not a valid ID.
Dollar ($)	The scan data character in this position is kept as part of the ID.
Asterisk (*)	The scan data character in this position is not kept as part of the ID.
Tilde (~)	The scan data character in this position must be a number (0-9), and it is not kept as part of the ID. If the scan data character is not a number, the scan data is not a valid ID.
Plus (+)	The scan data character in this position must be an alpha character, and it is not kept as part of the ID. If the scan data character is not an alpha character, the scan data is not a valid ID.
Caret (^)	The scan data character must be equal to the next character in the barcode mask after the "^", and that scan data character is kept as part of the ID. If the scan data character is not equal to the mask character following the "^" the scan data is not a valid ID.

NOTE: The system supports 1-D barcode masking of up to 60 characters and 2-D barcode masking of up to 300 characters, according to the above conventions:

If you are scanning the Epic CSN and it only has numbers with no pre or post letters (A-Z, a-z), then masking may not be needed if the patient ID validation is setup with None or Length (see below)

Patient ID Validation

Patient ID Validation Mode – Select the process by which Alere RALS® System will validate the Patient ID. Defaults to *None*.

- *None- No restriction on the entry of Patiend IDs.*
- *Length* – The Patient ID length must be within the minimum and maximum number of allowed characters. Enter the minimum number of characters (0-20) in the *Patient ID Min Length* box. Defaults to *0*. Enter the maximum number of characters (1-20) in the *Patient ID Max Length* box. Defaults to *20*.
- *List* – (EPID must be enabled for display.) The operator is required to enter a Patient ID. If the ID is not on the list, the meter will not allow testing on that patient.
- *List with Entry* – (EPID must be enabled for display.) The operator must enter a Patient ID, and if the patient is found, a name will be displayed from the list of Patient IDs sent to the meter from the ADT (if enabled in database). If the Patient ID is not located in the meter, the meter will still allow patient testing to occur; the length of entry must be within the minimum and maximum length specified.
- *Length if Numeric* – Requires the operator to enter a specified length (of numeric characters only) for each Patient ID. If the ID entered contains any alpha characters, validation will not be performed. (The ability to enter alpha characters is dependent on the Patient ID Entry Format.) If *Length if Numeric* is selected, enter a *Patient ID Min Length* and *Patient ID Max Length*.

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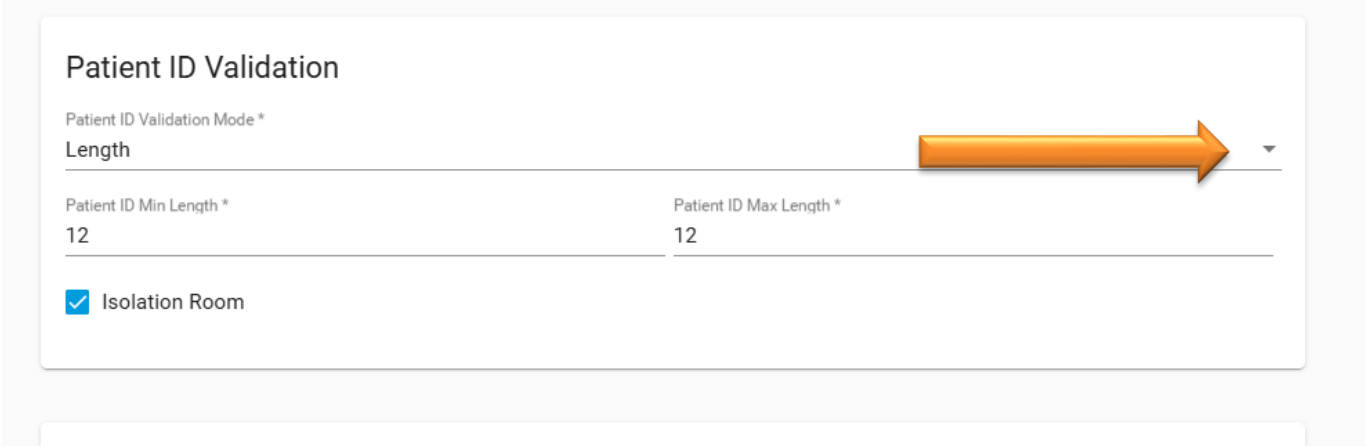
In this



In this example *Length* was selected

Patient minimum and maximum characters scanned must match numerical criteria
NOTE* - Great way to exclude AccuChek strips or other numerical information of varying length is to set Patient ID Min and Max to cover number of CSN characters (e.g., 12)

If patient has lead in alpha (characters), these can be excluded by using the masking characters

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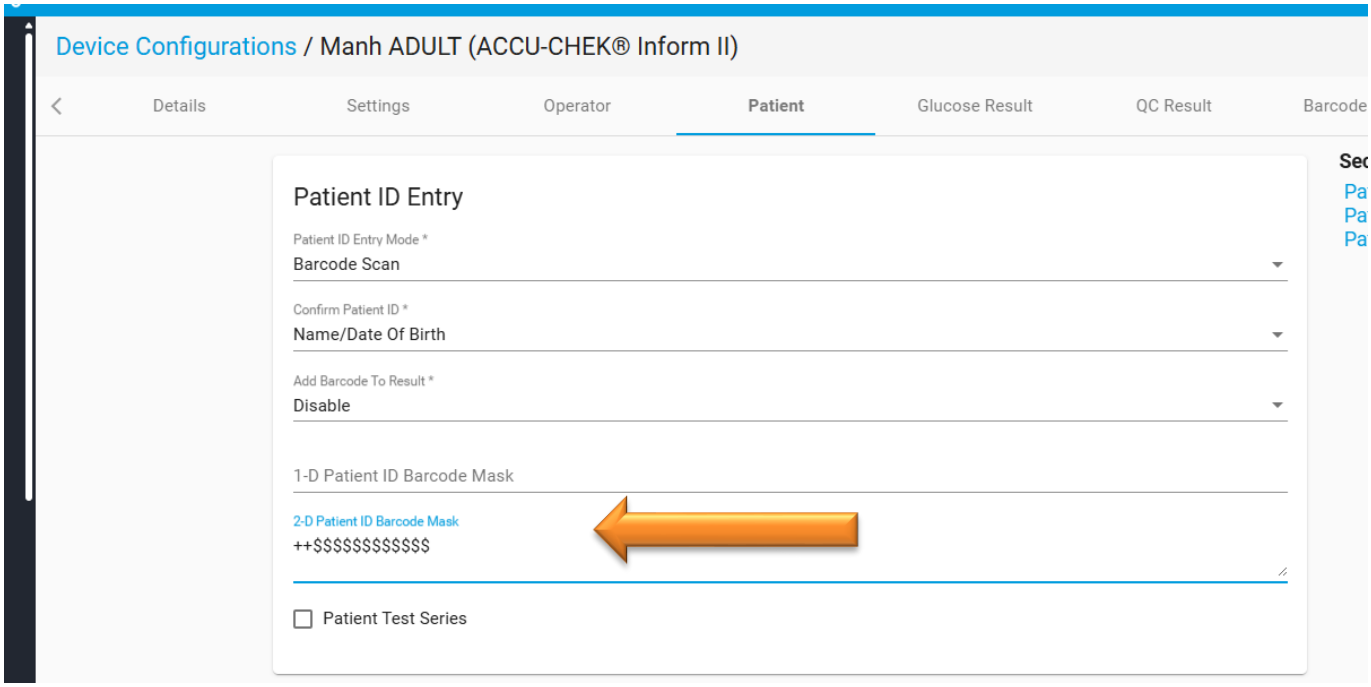
E.g., the Epic 1D or 2D CSN may have the following upon scanning “AC123123456456”

The “AC” prefix will not allow ADT matching to activate, so the result will just sit in RALS

To remove the “AC” prefix apply the following masking:



Key:
(“+”) The scan data character in this position must be an alpha character, and it is not kept as part of the ID. If the scan data character is not an alpha character, the scan data is not a valid ID.

(“$”) The scan data character in this position is kept as part of the ID. Each **“$”** represents each scanned number, so 12 **“$”** is needed.

Once configuration masking is completed, save the configuration.

The masking can be sent to the meter either by docking into an AccuChek download base that has connectivity or wirelessly to the meter.

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Consult other device manufacturer instructions to find out what type of 1D/2D barcodes can be scanned and see what masking configurations or Patient ID Validations can be utilized to ensure successful barcode scanning.

References

Alere RALS® System For Accu-Chek® Inform II Devices

Distribution Lists

- Northwell Health Facilities

Revision/Version History

Revision/Version No.	Date	Additions/Amendments
1	*9/30/2025*	*New Procedure*

Discontinued date: _____