

through modular, off-the-shelf applications. Tracelink's solution reaches out and identifies inventory levels in the supply chain to improve forecasting. What I really like is its capability to provide supply chain participants with government reporting solutions through its modular applications.²⁰

Another track and trace technology provider is One Network Enterprises. One Network was founded by Greg Brady in 2002. One Network provides its global pharmaceutical drug fulfillment service to the marketplace, which uses real-time supply information to meet actual demand. The result is an optimization of the distribution of pharmaceutical drugs and other critical medical supplies and equipment to clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, and patients around the globe.²¹

One Network also uses a cloud platform, which enables all supply chain participants to manage and track demand on a permissions-based basis. One Network's service is input agnostic, so it does not matter whether labels, 2D barcodes, or RFID tags are used for serialization. Once the input templates are initially established, the inputs are recognized and used by its service. Using real-time supply and supply chain conditions, the One Network service manages replenishment, inventory and order management, chain of custody, lot and expiration management, and other logistics processes in real time.²²

What I personally like about One Network is the ability to match demand with supply in a real-time manner. The result is an acceleration of inventory and working capital turns while minimizing stock-outs. From a patient safety standpoint, this is extremely important. What I also like about One Network is its ability to "nest" and track products. One Network can track pills into blister packs, blister packs into caddies, caddies into cases, cases onto pallets, and all of the above to production lot numbers. This is impressive, and exactly what the FDA is trying to require with its track and trace requirements!²³

Tracelink and One Network are two providers that can pull together serialization and track and trace for solutions to the FDA track and trace requirements. There are other providers in the marketplace, but I feel these two providers have differentiated themselves with their services.

THE SILVER LINING: THE AUTHENTICATION CONNECTION

During my many conversations with supply chain professionals and FDA representatives regarding the track and trace requirements, the subject of