

WELLWARE WITNESSING SOFTWARE

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Processes that are conducted in DNA labs across the country are often tedious and time consuming. Some laboratories are turning toward witnessing steps to ensure the accuracy of transfer steps within these processes. There is a need for a method to assist and track the analyst as they are transferring samples from one location to another. This method is called WellAware and it was created by BioTX Automation. WellAware uses a computer screen, foot pedal and barcode scanner to assist with transferring samples from one plate to another or for transferring samples from tubes into a plate. To begin the analyst types sample data (or imports the data from a LIMS) into the WellAware setup sheet. The analyst then runs the WellAware program while using the computer's LCD screen as a base for the plate(s) to be pipetted. Under the plate is a software generated grid which illuminates the correct well, row or column to show the analyst where to pipette the sample. The software will also call out using text-to-speech the plate numbers that are to be placed on the screen and volumes to be pipetted. The Broward County Sheriff's Office Crime Laboratory purchased WellAware to use as a method of witnessing the transfer of samples. WellAware is currently in testing and validating stages. It has been very promising and will soon be implemented for casework in the laboratory.