

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR MEDICATION COMPLIANCE: GENERAL RESOURCES

Assistive Technology (AT) for Medication Compliance has come a long way! New devices and concepts are being developed at an amazing rate. Research related to medication compliance and cost savings for health care systems has fueled increased interest in this area.

Medication reminder devices and systems run the gamut from the simple pill organizers we are all familiar with, to sophisticated medication reminder systems, all the way to automatic medication dispensers with remote monitoring and caregiver missed dose notifications/medication compliance reports. With the cell phone revolution in full swing a myriad of medication reminder apps are also available at no or very low cost for use with a cell phone or tablet device.















The information below is meant to introduce you to the range of AT available for Medication Compliance. It is not meant to cover every available device or to endorse any particular product! The cost range or approximation is provided only to give you an idea of what an item or similar item might run in comparison to other types and actual prices for items can change on a dime.








The best course of action is to visit some of the resource websites provided below or just search or “google” Medication Reminders. Explore some current options and get more complete information on individual products. Ask your pharmacist what is available locally. Most websites allow you to see other customer’s ratings of the product’s pros and cons as well.






Learning about the variety of product features will help you, your family member, or the individual you work with decide what medication management system might be helpful for them. Some systems are easy to set-up and others are more complicated. Some have easy open compartments and others might be hard to navigate for those with fine-motor problems. Some systems are “tamper-proof” and are keyed systems with locks. Types of reminders available include: voice message, customizable voice messages, chimes, alarms, vibration, lights, phone calls/text messages or a combination of these options. Some are very portable and others are meant to be home-based systems. Does your client or family member need extended voice directions? Some systems allow for this. If the individual you work with has a complicated med schedule or takes lots of meds, make sure the compartments and reminder options allow for this.


If you feel that you, the individual, or the individual’s family/team may need help navigating through the options, a Nurse or an Occupational Therapist might be a good resource as well. Below is an Overview Chart of Assistive Technology for Medication Compliance to give you a starting place for exploring the options. A list of websites that may be helpful is also included at the end of the chart. We hope this is a useful introduction to the large and ever-changing world of AT for Medication Compliance.

Overview of Assistive Technology Options for Medication Compliance				
Category	Device/Source(s)*	Description	Photo	\$
Pill Organizers	Daily Pill Organizers/your local pharmacy and most sources listed below.	Organizers range from the basic Monday through Sunday types to monthly organizers with detachable daily boxes. Size of compartments, ease of opening, and organization of the system are prime considerations.		\$1 to 30
	Accutab Dispenser/ Source # 2 and others	Easy lever dispenser. 7 day – up to 3 x per day. Can be mounted under cabinet. Often used with a medication reminder.		\$65 - 80
Medication Reminders and Alarms	Tabtime Timer Medication Reminder Alarm/ Source #1, #6 and others	Up to 5 daily alarms. Loud alarms. Easy to program. Fits in pocket.		\$20
	Med Center 4 Alarm Talking Medication Alarm/Source #1, #6 and others	Friendly female voice. Up to 4 alarms per day. Adjustable volume. User presses button to acknowledge and turn off reminder. Large buttons. Battery and AC Adaptor options.		\$30
	Key Chain Medication Reminder/ Source #2, #6 and others	Fits in pocket. Small and unobtrusive. Available as visual alert or as beep alert. EZ programming. Up to 6 daily alarms.		\$20 - 45
	Med Reminder Watches/ Source #2, #3, #6, #8 and many others	Most have large number of alarms that can be set. Some with vibration, some with alarm. Many have text information option. Medical ID options may be incorporated. Ease of set-up and use varies.		\$30 - 150

Category	Device/Source(s)*	Description	Photo	\$
Medication Reminders and Alarms (cont.)	Variety of apps for your phone or tablet. Available on iTunes, Google App Store or other app stores on your device.	Large variety with voice, text, beeps, alarms, custom reminders, etc. Many have custom options for medication information, reports, etc. Some apps to explore: Walgreen's mobile app, Medication, Pillboxie, MedCenter, Dosecast, Med Helper, Med Minder, and many more.		Free - \$12
	Custom Phone and/or text reminders/ www.blueberryrx.com Other vendors may be available.	Phone reminder (and/or text reminders). Can be customized. No user buttons or tech knowledge needed! Monthly Service.		\$5 to \$10 per mo.
	Multi Alarm Time Medication Bottle Cap/Source #2	Sound and Visual Alarm. Last opened indicator. Battery life = 1 year.		\$30
	Dose Alert Pill Cap/ Source #2 and others. Available at some local pharmacies.	One Button Re-set. Set of 3. Attaches to pill bottle. Interval Timer.		\$25 – 30
	E-Pill Beep 'N Tell Reminder Pill Cap/ Source #2	Cap beeps when time to take meds. Interval timer. Base allows a personal voice recording to play each time Cap beeps.		\$50
Medication Reminder and Dispenser Systems	MedCenter System/ Source #1, #3, #6 and others. Available at some local pharmacies.	Talking Med Management Organizer. Integrated talking alarm. Color-coded. Organized by date. Today's pills section. Various configurations available.		\$50 - 99

Category	Device/Source(s)*	Description	Photo	\$
Medication Reminder and Dispenser Systems (cont)	Daily 6 Timex Medication Manager/ Source #2 and others	Voice/beep/ or text reminders. Missed pill indicator. Weekly med adherence review. 4 med reminders plus 2 other reminders. EZ program. Long Battery Life.		\$40 - \$50
	Tabtime Super 8 Pill /Source #1, #6, and others. Similar available at some local pharmacies.	Visual and audio reminder options. Up to 8 daily reminders. 8 tablet compartments. Small and Simple. Can fit in pocket or purse.		\$15 - \$25
	Tabtime Vibe Pill Timer/ Source #1, #6 and others	With 4 tablet compartments and up to 4 daily reminders. Set for audio and/or vibration reminders. Small and Simple. Can fit in pocket or purse. Discrete.		\$20 - \$30
	Multi Alarm Pillbox/ Source #2 and others	Missed pill indicator. Set up to 37 daily reminders. EZ open and EZ to set. Loud alarms. Extra trays available.		\$50 - \$60
	Vibrating Pocket Pill Box/ Source #2	Discrete. Small size fits in pocket or purse. Up to 4 reminders/daily. Vib and/or loud alarm.		\$40
	Turtle Pill Box/ Source #1, #2, #6 and others. Similar available at some local pharmacies.	Up to 4 daily reminders. 7 daily, EZ open compartments. Loud alarm. Compact and economical.		\$19 - \$29
Automatic Medication Dispensers	Med – E – Lert/ Source #1.	Auto pill dispenser with alarm. 28 compartments. Up to 4 custom alarms daily. Lockable with key. EZ program. Clear or solid lids available.		\$80- \$90

Category	Device/Source(s)*	Description	Photo	\$
Automatic Medication Dispensers (cont.)	E-Pill Auto Pill Dispensers/ Source #2	Auto pill dispenser up to 28 times per day. Large capacity. Loud alarm. Turn over to dispense pills and alarm turns off. Lockable. Low battery indicator. Lockable with key. <i>Various Models with options like:</i> patient display, AC power, Tamper-proof. Can be used with Pill Dispenser Tipper below.		\$290 - \$895
	E-Pill Auto Pill Dispenser "Tipper"	For individual who has problems tipping the Auto Pill Dispenser upside down to dispense the pills. For E-pill Auto Pill Dispensers. (E-pill also sells an auto pill dispenser that includes the "Tipper")		\$130 - \$199
	Med Ready Auto Medication Dispenser/ Source #1, #6, #9 and others	AC power with Re-chargeable battery back-up. Up to 4 daily alarms. Turn over to dispense pills and alarm turns off. Lockable and tamper-proof. EZ set-up. Economical.		\$150
Medication Dispenser Systems with Remote Monitoring Options	Glow Cap/ Source #7 for further info. This service is available through CVS, Walgreen's and other pharmacies. Contact your pharmacy for current pricing.	Wireless Chip in Medication Cap. Base station plugs in. Glows, then beeps, then calls caregiver if bottle is not opened. Has button to press for refill needed. Works via cell tower signal. Monthly service plan. Sends updates and reports to caregiver.		Mnthly service
	E-pill MedSmart Plus/ Source #2	Various configurations available. Locked "pill robot". Notifies caregiver of missed dose by voice, text, or e-mail after 60 mins. Of missed dose. Includes lifetime monitoring. No Monthly Fees. Needs access to phone jack.		\$790

Category	Device/Source(s)*	Description	Photo	\$
Medication Dispenser Systems with Remote Monitoring Options (cont.)	Med Minder System/ Source: www.medminder.com	Medication dispenser system with internal cellular modem. Caregiver notification if med not taken. Also provides data report. No phone line or internet connection required.		Mnthly cost Approx \$39

*** Each item may have other sources. Sources may change. Cost is approx. only and subject to change!**

Source Key: (other sources may be available)

1. www.activeforever.com
2. www.epill.com
3. www.walgreens.com
4. www.medcentersystems.com
5. www.amazon.com
6. www.pillthing.com
7. www.vitality.net
8. www.maxiaid.com
9. www.safehomeproducts.com