



The Iris Network is a statewide, nonprofit agency serving people who are visually impaired and blind.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG EDUCATION AND UTILIZATION: Issues for Special Populations

Chronic Conditions: Drug Label Access Adrift

The effort to ensure medication information and label accessibility has been meeting with considerable sympathy on the Hill, but like many other proposals, key Congressional health staff has yet to acknowledge this issue as a legitimate aspect of health care reform. This is so in spite of the fact that many provisions in the various health reform bills run far a field of the central health care reform debate. For example, the Senate HELP Committee bill includes requirements to clearly list caloric and other nutritional information on chain restaurant menus and vending machines.

It has also been argued that drug label access is an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issue and, as such, is already dealt with elsewhere and inappropriate to consider in health reform. This perspective is in error. The ADA does place a general requirement on public accommodations like retail pharmacies to effectively communicate information. However, the ADA does not guarantee that customers will receive medication information access in their preferred medium (e.g., large print, audio, Braille, etc.) and does not prescribe specific standards for retail pharmacies to follow to ensure safety, reliability, and privacy.

The Goal is to ensure that individuals with vision loss and other disabilities can properly identify and take medications by mandating appropriate labeling standards and methods for providing nonvisual and enhanced visual access to drug container labeling and related information.

A Statewide Focus on Maine's Visually Impaired Since 1905.

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Possible Solutions:

- The pharmacist verbally reviews all print instructions with the patient.
- Use of large print labels for people with “low vision.”
- Use of tactile identifiers/digital pill bottle recording device for patients who are blind.

RESOURCES:

Talking Prescriptions at Walgreen’s

Walgreen’s is now offering Script Talk labeled prescription bottles and the reader unit to customers who are visually impaired. The Script Talk reader speaks aloud all of the printed information that appears on the prescription label, as well as the additional medication pamphlet that often accompanies the prescription. The pharmacist places a sensor on each medication bottle that then allows the unit to identify and speak the information in a clear female voice. The units, approximately the size of a portable CD player, may be available at your local Walgreen’s for free upon inquiry.

Identi-Med[®] Rx Labels

[®]Better Compliance Means Better Care

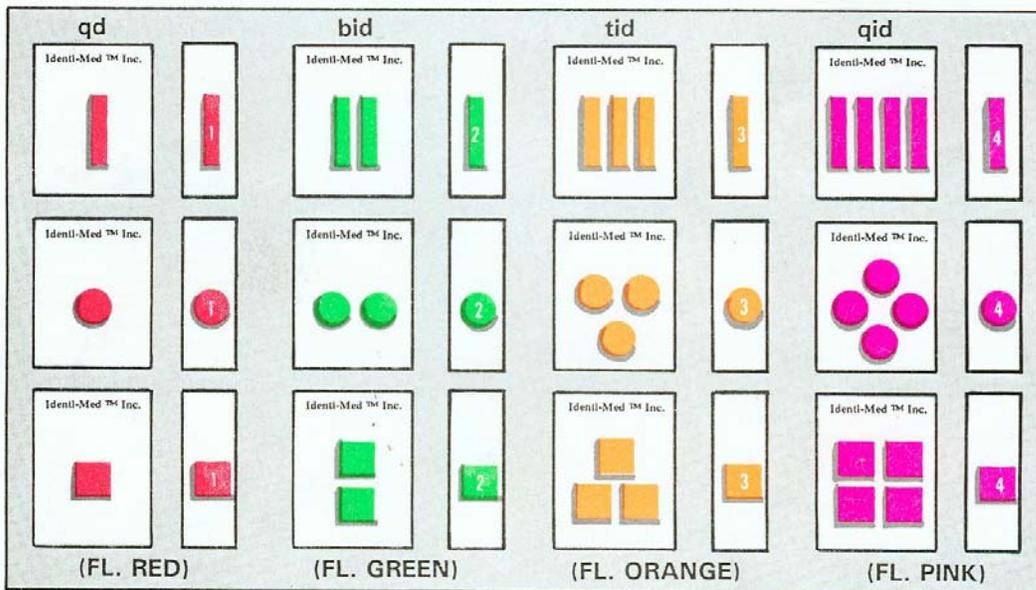
NEW
PRODUCT

Build customer **SATISFACTION** and **LOYALTY**. **3-D LABELS** ease the fears your impaired (sight, age, language, etc.) customers may have about taking their medications.

It is estimated that 20% of all hospital admissions could be avoided if patients used their medication properly.

A simple three component code helps identify the Rx. The patient is able to feel and/or see the **NUMBER**, **SHAPE** and fluorescent **COLOR** telling them how many times a day he or she needs to take the Rx.

The system's **12 LABELS** give flexibility to customize the prescriptions for the "special patient".



Each label comes with a **REMOVABLE TAB** to place on the prescription record. The tab indicates which label was used for a specific medication.

The label system also allows the patient to identify a Rx when **ORDERING** a **REFILL** by telephone.

Patent No. 4,895,257
Foreign Patents Pending
Identi-Med[®] Copyright 1989

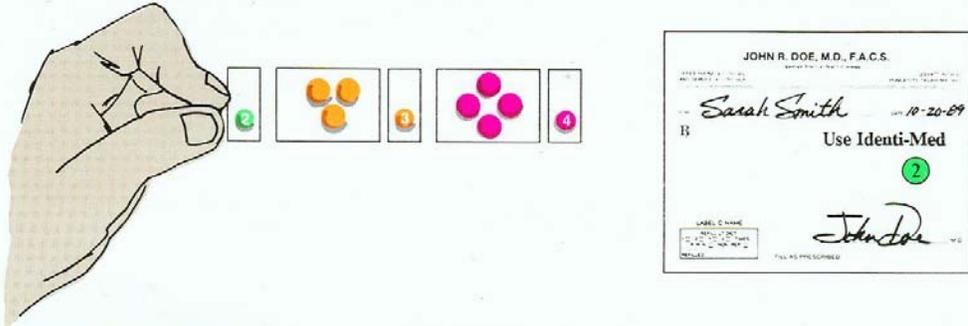
IDENTI-MED, [®] INC.
1-405-765-0669
1-800-752-9404 (24 Hrs.)

Identi-Med[®], Inc.
123 Patton Drive
Ponca City, OK 74601

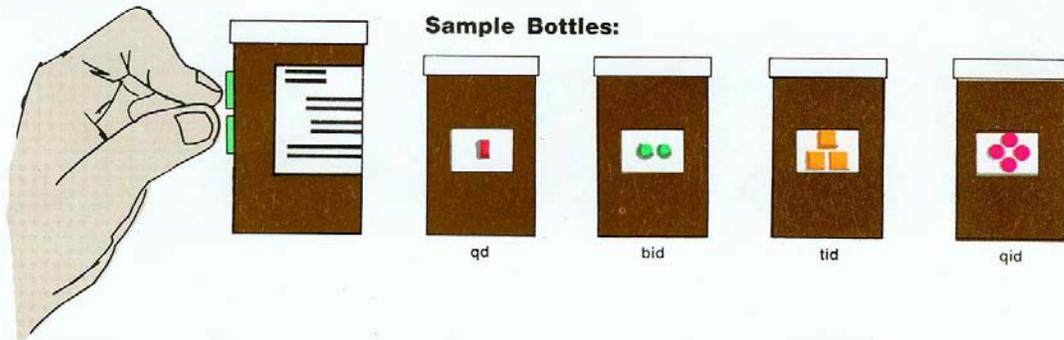
Identi-Med[®], Inc.

[®]Better Compliance Means Better Care

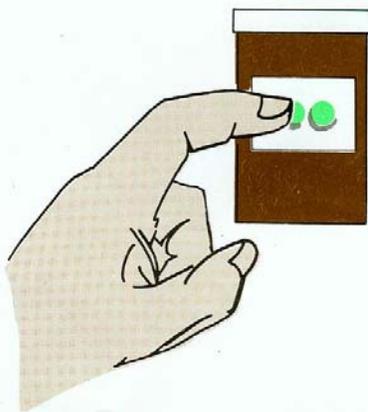
STEP 1: Pharmacist removes tab from strip of labels and applies to Rx for record.



STEP 2: Pharmacist applies Identi-Med[®] label to vial.



STEP 3: Patient feels and or sees colored symbols to identify Rx.



Patient may also use this code to communicate by telephone to the pharmacist when ordering a refill.



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HEALTH CARE AND GROOMING

Pill containers and cutters are not returnable.



ila Portable Pill Organizers and Timers

Depending on the number of times per day you take pills and the quantity of pills, the two or the four-compartment pill box with its very easy-to-set alarms, will ensure you take the correct medication on time.



- #401110 (4" x 2.5") has 4 compartments and 4 alarms
- #401115 (3.25" x 2") has 2 compartments and 1 repeating alarm
- both include batteries

#401110 \$11.95
#401115 8.95

Monthly Pill Organizer and Reminder

At the beginning of the month distribute your pills into each day's container. Has 31 marked compartments plus one unmarked. Each holds 24 aspirin-sized tablets.



#328330 \$8.95

Rainbow Daily Pill Holders

Each day's pill box is identified by its day and a different color. Fill all the boxes, then place that day's box on the counter or in your bag so you don't forget to take your medication.



- boxes are clearly marked in print and Braille either AM and PM or Morning, Noon, Evening, Bedtime
- #655850 (2.25" x 2.5" x .5") has 4 compartments
- #328015 (2.25" x 2.5" x 1") has 2 compartments

#655850 \$7.95
#328015 9.95

Talking RX - Pill Bottle Recorder

A pharmacist or caregiver can record a 60 second message identifying the medicine and dosage, giving instructions on how to take the medication or explaining the potential side effects. The reusable holders accommodate 13 or 40/60 dram pill bottles.



#756002 for 13 dram bottle (1.375") \$24.95
#756002 for 40/60 dram bottles (1.75") 26.95

MedCenter System™ Talking One Month Medication Organizer and Reminder

Designed by two sons to ensure that their father took his medication regularly - he is doing so now and you will also when you use this system.



- 31 individual boxes, each with 4 pill compartments sit in a frame
- at the beginning of the month put the pills into each compartment and then each day you take out the box corresponding to that day
- it is also a talking alarm clock
- the pill reminder either beeps or speaks, "Please take your pills" when the alarm sounds
- setting the alarms and time is straightforward and there is voice guidance
- unit measures about 7.5" x 7.25" x 10"
- uses 2 AA batteries (INC)

#328009 \$69.95

Jumbo Portable Pill Boxes

For home or travel, seven removable pill holders can be removed from the sturdy plastic frame to put in your purse or carrying case.



401125

- #401125 contains 4 bins per day, marked "MORN", "NOON", "EVE", and "BED"
- #328030 has one compartment for each day, measures 11" x 2" and can hold 50 pills in each box
- #328019 has 2 compartments per day: AM and PM



328030

#401125 Jumbo \$4.95
#328030 Standard 1.95
#609555 Brailled .99
#328019 Dual Compartments 2.95



609555

EZ Opener 7-Day Color Coded Pill Organizer

The periods of the day are color coded to help you identify which bin to open, so morning bins are all yellow, noon are burgundy, evening are blue and bed are purple. Sloping bins make it easy to remove the pills.



#401108 MediPlanner - Color Coded \$7.95
#553480 MediPlanner II/Jumbo Size 6.95