

Assessing Suitability for a Dose Administration Aid

Insert name of your organisation

Name of client: _____

Unique identifier: _____ DOB (DD/MM/YY): _____

Usual community pharmacy: _____

Dose administration aids may benefit appropriately selected persons¹.

If the answer to any of these questions is 'No', then a dose administration aid may be unsuitable.

Question	Examples	Yes	No
Has a specific problem been identified that may be resolved with a dosing aid?	- Unintended non-compliance or errors due to a complex regimen. - Double dosing due to short-term memory loss.	☐	☐
Is the person motivated to take their medicines?	Dosing aids offer no benefit if the person refuses to take their medicines.	☐	☐
Has a medicines review and regimen simplification occurred?		☐	☐
Have other strategies been considered and discussed with the person?	Linking dose times to meals or other regular activities, medicine list or chart with dose times, medicine calendar or diary, multi-alarm reminder device.	☐	☐
Are most of the medicines appropriate for packing in a dosing aid?	Unsuitable medications include those not available in solid oral dose form, unstable when removed from packaging, or frequently changing doses e.g. warfarin.	☐	☐
Has the person been shown the dosing aid and agreed to use it?		☐	☐
Has the person demonstrated that they can use the dosing aid, or have a carer who is able to assist?	Able to identify correct compartment and remove medicines.	☐	☐
Will the person be able to manage dual medicine management systems, if applicable?	For regular and as required medicines.	☐	☐
Is it affordable for the person?		☐	☐

Selecting the most suitable dosing aid¹.

Type of Dose Administration Aid	Description	Select
Compartmentalised plastic boxes (e.g. Dosette®)	- Reusable device that is usually filled by the user, sometimes filled by health professionals. - Many varieties, with one, two or four compartments for each day of the week. - Some have the days and times labelled in Braille. - Some contain a built-in alarm that can be set to remind the user when it is time to take their medicine. - Usually not tamper-evident.	☐
Blister or bubble packs (e.g. MedicoPak, Webster-Pak®)	- Plastic or disposable cardboard device with four compartments for each day of the week. - Provided by pharmacies. - Usually filled manually, although some pharmacies use an automated packing method. - Some brands may be easier to use than others. - Blister packs for people with low vision or who are unable to read English are available from some suppliers.	☐
Sachet systems (e.g. APHS medicine sachets®, MPS Packettes®)	- Tablets and capsules for a particular date and dose time packed in an individual sachet, labelled with the date and time, the medicine details and the person's name. - Sachets are rolled up in chronological date and time order and usually provided in a container. - Sachets are prepared using automated packing technology. - Community pharmacies usually outsource sachet packing to a large-scale packing facility, although some pharmacies have installed technology to enable onsite packing.	☐
Automated medicine dispensing devices (e.g. Medido®, TabTimer®)	- Devices that dispense the medicines for a particular dose-time, after the user has responded to a built-in reminder alarm that activates when medicines are due to be taken. - The device may need to be manually filled or it may dispense pre-filled medicine sachets. - Some devices have a monitoring function which can send a text message or email to a designated person, if there is no response to the reminder within a set time period.	☐

¹ Elliott RA. [Appropriate use of dose administration aids](#). Aust Prescr. 2014 Apr;37:46-50. doi: 10.18773/austprescr.2014.020.