

Customized Patient Medication Packages

In lieu of dispensing prescribed drug products in separate containers, a pharmacist may, after consultation with, and with the consent of the patient, the patient's caregiver, or a prescriber, provide a customized patient medication package compliance package for the purposes of increased medication adherence and patient safety.

A patient compliance package is prepared under a pharmacist's supervision for a specific patient, comprising of a series of blisters or compartments, which may contain more than one prescribed solid oral dosage form. The patient compliance package is so designed, or each compartment is so labelled, as to indicate the day and time, or period of time, that the contents are to be taken. It must be appropriate for the contents of each compartment to be administered at the same time.

When preparing a compliance package, pharmacists shall review the patient's medication profile and history regarding drug interactions and other drug related concerns; take into account the drug integrity and special packaging requirements of the medications; ensure visual identity of each medication without removal from the package; ensure each package is tamper-evident; and maintain proper hygiene while packaging (frequent hand washing, disposable gloves, etc).

LABELLING

In recognition of the different delivery systems available the packaging must clearly indicate the following:

- 1) The patient compliance package shall clearly indicate:
 - the name of the patient;
 - the name of the prescriber for each prescription;
 - the prescription number for each prescription;
 - the date dispensed;
 - the name, strength, description and quantity of each prescription;
 - the directions for each prescription;
 - the name, address and phone number of the pharmacy;
 - the name or initials of the pharmacist;
- 2) If the **drug name** and **strength** is abbreviated on the back of each blister, the label must show the full name of the product and the corresponding abbreviation.

3) A **description** of each medication must be provided, either on the label or compartment, or as separate written information.

4) The **quantity** of each product in a compliance package may be shown as, for example:

- the total number per package (7/card, 14/card);
- the dosage each day (1/day, 2/day); or,
- label each blister.

5) The **directions** for each prescription may be shown on the label, or, with graphics on the packaging or as separate written information.

6) The label and all auxiliary information must be clearly visible.

PATIENT/AUXILIARY INFORMATION

1) The pharmacist must ensure that the patient, or the patient's caregiver, receives sufficient information, either verbal or written, to achieve optimal benefit from the medications.

Recording System

1) Each patient compliance package must be numbered sequentially, with respect to the number of packages dispensed at one time; i.e. - 1/4, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4.

2) A recording system (electronic or manual) must be in place and include information confirming dosing specifications (time of day), the number of packages prepared; special drug integrity information and the complete patient medication list dispensed including the date of dispensing and total quantities dispensed, to allow subsequent preparation of an identical patient compliance package for the patient.

RETURN OF MEDICATIONS

Medications returned in a patient compliance package may not be returned to inventory. (Reference Bylaw 14.9)

A pharmacist may accept the return of a compliance package from a patient for repackaging for the SAME patient in cases where a change in therapy has occurred. Should repackaging for the same patient occur, steps must be taken to ensure the integrity of the drugs with respect to packaging methods (heat seal, cold seal) and that the date of dispensing of the original package is documented).