

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?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unintended non-compliance or errors due to a complex regimen. Double dosing due to short-term memory loss. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the person motivated to take their medicines?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dosing aids offer no benefit if the person refuses to take their medicines. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has a medicines review and regimen simplification occurred?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have other strategies been considered and discussed with the person?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linking dose times to meals or other regular activities, medicine list or chart with dose times, medicine calendar or diary, multi-alarm reminder device. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are most of the medicines appropriate for packing in a dosing aid?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsuitable medications include those not available in solid oral dose form, unstable when removed from packaging, or frequently changing doses e.g. warfarin. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the person been shown the dosing aid and agreed to use it?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Has the person demonstrated that they can use the dosing aid, or have a carer who is able to assist?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to identify correct compartment and remove medicines. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will the person be able to manage dual medicine management systems, if applicable?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For regular and as required medicines. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is it affordable for the person?		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Selecting the most suitable dosing aid¹.

Type of Dose Administration Aid	Description	Select
Compartmentalised plastic boxes (e.g. Dosette®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blister or bubble packs (e.g. MedicoPak, Webster-Pak®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sachet systems (e.g. APHS medicine sachets®, MPS Packettes®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<input type="checkbox"/>
Automated medicine dispensing devices (e.g. Medido®, TabTimer®)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<input type="checkbox"/>

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