



Press release
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Wider-scale use following good results in pilot trial in the Jyväskylä region
Med-O-Wheel Smart cuts home care costs by almost a half and ensures on-time administration of medicines

Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Ltd has piloted Med-O-Wheel Smart and its medicine logistics service models in home nursing since July 2007. Med-O-Wheel Smart has outperformed objectives in trial use. Not only will private home nursing companies keep using Med-O-Wheel Smart, the device will also go into wider-scale use. Among other benefits, Med-O-Wheel Smart cut home nursing costs in Jyväskylä by almost a half and freed up time for care staff to attend to actual caregiving duties.

For the users of Med-O-Wheel Smart and their relatives, the device ensured that the right medication is taken at exactly the right time, each and every day.

The medicine logistics service model and the Med-O-Wheel Smart device developed by the Finnish company Addoz Oy substantially improved the safety and accurate timing of medicine administration in Jyväskylä. Thanks to the device, it was no longer necessary for a home care nurse or relative to be on hand to see that the patient took his or her medication on time.*

Addoz Oy's medicine logistics service model is employed by home nursing companies such as Hyvänolopiste Oy, ET-Elämisentuki Oy and Kotisairaanhoido Harmonia Oy on the recommendation of Jykes. In total, Jykes has acquired 50 Med-O-Wheel Smart devices for the use of home nursing companies. At present, the devices are used by live-at-home elderly, who have difficulties remembering when they should take their medication and in what doses, psychiatric patients, young ADHD patients and epileptics.

“As a development company, it's important for us to be on board the pilot projects of companies at an early stage. We're interested in the potential of medicine dispensers from two perspectives. Firstly, dispensers increase the profitability and margins of companies. Secondly, this enables them to improve the services they provide to their customers. Piloting Med-O-Wheel Smart opened up a window of opportunity for companies to commercialise and sell new kinds of service packages,” says **Mareena Löfgren**, Development Manager, Wellness Services, at Jyväskylä Regional Development Company Jykes Ltd.

Two of the benefits of Med-O-Wheel Smart noted by home nursing companies were that it enables psychiatric patients to better take care of themselves and their own medication and parents are pleased that they don't have to worry all day about administering the right doses of medication to young ADHD patients and epileptics. The medicine logistics model also resulted in a substantial decrease in hospital visits and the need for home service.



* Studies indicate that Addoz Oy's Med-O-Wheel Smart increases on-time use of medication in the prescribed doses to 96.1 per cent. Ordinarily, only a third of drugs are taken at the right time, while a third are not taken at all.

Med-O-Wheel Smart balances out the peak workloads of caregivers

Med-O-Wheel Smart gets kudos from **Merja Jalkanen**, Managing Director of Kotisairaanhoido Harmonia. The device has made a real difference in her business. In addition to yielding major cost savings, Med-O-Wheel Smart has made it possible for staff to devote more working time to caregiving. Until now, a great share of the home care time of individual clients was spent on dosing medication and ensuring that the client took it.

“Med-O-Wheel Smart significantly eased our early and late rush hours. Until now, the morning and evening hours have been difficult for allocating staff resources - almost all our clients needed our attention at the same time. After all, medication has to always be taken on time and in the prescribed doses so that it helps the client,” she says. “Now we can focus on actual caregiving and see to it that our clients enjoy a good quality of life by taking care of things such as hygiene and healthy nutrition.

“Med-O-Wheel Smart is also safe to use because the client always gets the prescribed dose of the right medication at the right time. They cannot change the dosing of medication loaded into the dispenser - and if the device drops on the floor, it won't break and the medication won't get mixed up. Our caregivers can avoid unfortunate situations, such as patients who've taken too many pills at once or the wrong kind of medication.”

Med-O-Wheel Smart also has an extra safety feature - if a patient does not take his medication for whatever reason, the device alerts the medical call centre or his relatives. Med-O-Wheel Smart helps prevent the necessity for hospitalisation or institutional care.

Audio alarm indicates when it's time to take medication

It's easy for those who are nursed or live at home to start using Med-O-Wheel Smart. First, a home nurse, pharmacy or relative programs the dose times into the Med-O-Wheel Smart and loads the dispenser with medication. This can be done at two-week intervals, for instance. Each day, Med-O-Wheel Smart sounds an audio alarm when it's time to take medication. This prevents the patient from exceeding his dose or taking the wrong or contraindicated medication.

When he hears the audio alarm, the patient presses the dispensing button, and the device dispenses the prescribed dose of medication. If the patient does not take his medication for whatever reason, the device reminds him to do so with a flashing light and a warning tone. If the patient still does not respond, Med-O-Wheel Smart sends an alarm to the



medical call centre or his relatives, who can then ensure that the medication is administered.

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