

Availability

Medication cards are available in a variety of types of dosage forms, including tablet, capsule, caplet, liquid, eye, ear, nose, suppository, and topical medication such as ointment, cream, lotion, gel, etc.

Because the medication cards are designed to use cheap materials like paper and require almost no work to create, they are available to everyone. However, the limitation of the medication card is that it is only for those who can read braille.



Introduction

The purpose of the medication cards are to assist the population of the visually impaired to take medications safely. About 285 million people are visually impaired worldwide, making them vulnerable to taking medications incorrectly.

Everyone knows that taking medications safely is important. In addition, the inability to read medication labels, instruction sheets, and medication inserts containing medication information put them at high risk of taking incorrect medication in the wrong amount at the wrong time, which jeopardizes their health. Overall, there are many issues associated with vision loss, including the inability to read prescription labels and determine the size, shape, color, or markings to distinguish medication from each other. Even a study by the AFB (American Foundation for the Blind) indicated that 65% of people expressed concern on the ability to properly identify the correct medication.

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THE VISUALLY
IMPAIRED

MEDICATION CARDS

“The safer way to take medications.”



How to Use MEDICATION CARDS DESCRIPTION

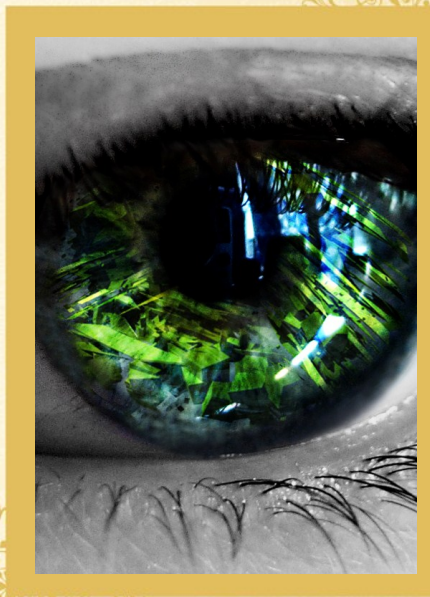
The medication card is designed for quick and easy use. The medication cards include name of the patient, pharmacy name, Rx number (which helps identify which prescription a person is using), type of medication, usage, expiration date, and phone number.

The medication card has a hole punched in the upper left-hand corner, indicating how to hold the card. The card then lists, in order, the name of the person, Rx number, type of medication, usage, expiration date, and phone number. Each section has a label, allowing the person who is using it to easily identify what each line is.

Because, in the pharmacy, work is very fast paced, the medication card also has a color on the upper right hand corner, quickly allowing a pharmacist to identify which type of medication the card is for.

Because the medication card is designed on a 3 by 5 inch index card, it limits the number of letters that can be written on it. Because of this, there are a list of abbreviations (attached to this brochure) that is used to explain how to read the "use" section of the medication card. However, if the medication card is expanded in width, abbreviations will not be needed.

Also, the braille on the medication cards are created by the use of a slate and stylus, which is easy to learn. However, in the future, they can be made with braille printers or braille writers.



Benefits of Medication Cards

- Medication cards are made of paper, so it is low cost.
- Medication cards are easy to be implemented in real world situations, making it practical.
- Medication cards promotes independence of those who are visually impaired so they do not require additional assistance to take medications
- Medication cards reduce medication errors because detailed information is available on the cards.

"I think we are blind. Blind people who can see, but do not see." ~ Jose Saramago