



Medication Mistakes in Today’s Economic Crisis

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The high toll of medication mistakes in today’s economic crisis Medication errors are common and costly

The cost of non-adherence to medication regimens has a huge impact on our society. The National Pharmaceutical Council estimates that non-adherence to medication regimens costs the healthcare industry more than \$100 billion a year. Complex medication regimens can result in unintended mistakes that can result in serious outcomes. Although, medications can help keep you healthy, they can put you at risk for falling. A bad fall can happen to anyone at any time and not getting quick assistance could mean a lengthy hospital stay, painful rehabilitation, a loss of independent life or worse.

Misuse of medications results in 1 of 10 hospital visits each year and is the number one reason for nursing home admissions among seniors. With the average cost of alternative living situations rising astronomically and housing prices dropping to new lows, seniors may be looking for services to help them remain at home. The answer may be with the use of technology.

Technology can provide assistance to help maintain independent living. As seniors evaluate what is most important to them they have become more open to using new technologies that aid independence. Products available to support independent living range in magnitude and price. There are automatic medication systems that help you take your medication on schedule. These systems work by dispensing the medications you’ve pre-loaded, at the times you’ve scheduled. This helps provide the right dose, at the right time—so you and your family don’t have to worry about complications from incorrect medication use. Medication adherence is one step to reducing the risk of falls, but not all falls can be prevented. In the event of a fall or emergency, another technology called a medical alert service can make sure you get the help you need with the simple push of a button. Getting prompt help helps reduce unnecessary suffering and complications, potentially helping avoid costly medical expenses.

There are many types of assistive technologies that can make the difference in the life of a senior and their caregivers. As with any major decision it is best to evaluate your needs and research the alternatives available to you. Not all these services are the same. When choosing one of these technologies it is important to make sure you are going with a leader in the industry that is committed to the well-being of seniors.

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