

Taking Your Pills With an Automated Pill Dispenser

The *Pivotell* pill dispenser helps people take their prescribed medication at the right time and in the right dosage. This helps people to remain independent and to stay in good health.

The dispenser holds 28 doses, so, if you take medication 4 times a day, it will hold a week's worth of medication. The dispenser will be programmed and filled by a pharmacist.

To take your medicine:

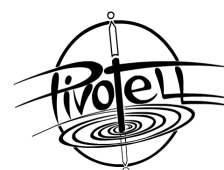
When your pills are due, the internal pill tray will rotate, the alarm will sound and the red light on the lid of the dispenser will flash (for up to 60 minutes). You will be able to see your pills in the opening.

To take your pills, pick up the dispenser, and turn it over so that the pills fall out into your hand or a bowl.

The internal pill tray will be refilled by your pharmacist when you have taken all 28 doses in the dispenser, so you do not need to worry that you will run out of pills.

The dispenser can be used on its own or linked to a control centre. If the medication is not taken on time, the role of the control centre is to send a reminder to you or your carer to remind you to take your medication.

Depending on your need, assessed by a nurse, you will be allocated an appropriate model of a dispenser. The latest version of the device (the *Pivotell Plus* dispenser) can also send text messages and e-mails to notify a family members) if medication has not been taken within a set time. This enables the family member to check on the well-being of the individual before a serious problem occurs.



Automated Pill Dispenser Pilot in Colchester and Tendring

NHS North East Essex is running an innovative automated pill dispenser pilot project. This aims to improve the quality of life of those people who have difficulty remembering to take their medication. This supports patients to remain independent and helps them stay in good health by taking their medication when they should.

The service is being delivered by two nurses from the Memory Assessment and Monitoring Support Service (MAMSS) Service in Colchester and by local pharmacies who fill the dispensers for patients. Currently, there are 52 patients on the pilot and we aim to recruit up to 200 by the end of March 2012.

If you or a family member would find a pill dispenser beneficial and would like to take part in this pilot project, please contact -

- Your GP Practice

or

- The MAMSS nurses on 01206 228901 / 01206 228928 or at michelle.christon@nepft.nhs.uk