

Cognitive Prosthetic Medication Reminder Platform enabling Healthcare Professionals and Patients to Manage Medications Together using a smartphone App and IoT Pill Dispenser



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Interview conducted by:
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CEOCFO: Dr. Sterns, would you tell us about iRxReminder?

Dr. Sterns: I spent about ten years working with people living with dementia.

The major reason that they would often lose their independence and be removed from the home they had owned for many years and be placed in an institution was that they failed to manage their medications correctly. I was inspired to create what I call a cognitive prosthetic which is now the iRxReminder Platform to help people and empower patients with their healthcare professionals to manage medications together.

CEOCFO: How does iRxReminder work?

Dr. Sterns: The core mission is to empower patients and healthcare professionals to manage their medications together. We do that by providing the patient with our Internet of Things pill dispenser, or if they are taking multiple medications, a set of pill dispensers. We call our device an iLidRx Pod; these work with our smartphone apps. Together the pod and app talks to the cloud where regimens are managed by the healthcare professionals.

CEOCFO: What happens when it is medication time?

Dr. Sterns: The key to our system is a dosing window. Each pod has a window of time when the medication becomes available and when it is no longer available. At the beginning of the dosing window on the iLidRx pod, a green LED light comes on that lets you know the window is open. You can take the medications half-way through that window completely on your own. Half-way through the window plus five minutes an alert is generated that goes to your smart watch, to your smartphone, it can go to your smart home devices, like your TV, and it can go to your caregiver. About ten minutes before the window closes you get another alert. What is unique to our platform is that if you take the medication, you get no alerts. So the alerts are always meaningful.

The time and state (ontime, alerted, late, skipped, or missed) you dispensed the medication are then shared with the app and also goes to the healthcare professional team. What this platform does is help you to learn to take your medication on time. You can always decide to skip your medications by letting the app know if you are not going to take them so every time you do take the medication simply by lifting the pod, placing it on your hand and tilting it and the pill comes out, that automatically records the medication-dispensing. Because you are deciding to take the medication every time, that is reinforcing that health decision so you are more likely in the future to take them again. We see through that, that people achieve high adherence. And it continues to get better over time.