

# Prompting & Monitoring Patient Compliance using SMS

Presented by Gerard Stevens



## INTRODUCTION



- Most people now have at least one mobile phone
- Mobiles mean contact is possible any where and any time
- SMS means instant, direct communication



## INTRODUCTION



In 2007 more than 88% of individuals owned at least one mobile phone:

• 18-39 years: 94%

• 40-59 years: 85%

• 60+ years: 73%



## SYSTEM SUMMARY



- Text message alerts
- Automatically sent from the pharmacy
- Remind patients to take medication
- Monitor compliance by requesting a reply
- Text message sent to carer if no response



## WHO IS IT FOR



- For anyone taking medication
- Short term doses or antibiotic medication
- Monitoring use of particular types of medication
- School children
- Mental health patients
- Elderly patients living at home



## **MARKETS**



#### 1. SOUTH AFRICA

- Aim to improve health outcomes & productivity with mine workers
- High incidence of HIV, Aids & Tuberculosis
- Poor compliance with proven treatments
- Focus on innovative solutions to monitor compliance



## **MARKETS**



#### 2. MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

- For use with patients with mental illness
- Ensure antipsychotic medication is taken correctly
- Clozapine usage
- Medications not taken daily
- Maintain independence



## **MARKETS**



#### 3. GENERAL POPULATION

- Anyone taking regular medication
- With a Webster-pak or without a Webster-pak
- Short term or antibiotic medication
- School children, Indigenous population
- Immediate & convenient





- Flexibility to suit each individual patient
- Automatically generated from the pharmacy
- 3 components:
  - 1. SMS Reminder
  - 2. Reply
  - 3. Carer Notification





#### 1. SMS REMINDER

- Patient selects suitable time for each reminder
- Pharmacist selects start date for reminders
- At specified time text message is sent automatically





#### 2. REPLY

- Is a response required?
- Either YES. Quick & Easy



Back of Webster-pak

- Or unique three letter code. Identifies individual dose
  - Did they take their medication at the right time?
  - Did they take the correct dose of medication?





#### 3. CARER NOTIFICATION IF NO RESPONSE

- Is there a carer that needs to be notified?
- Family member, case manager, neighbour
- Carer receives SMS if patient does not reply
- Opportunity to assist the patient



### **COMPLIANCE MONITORING**



- Text message is sent at required time
- Has reply been received?
- Second SMS is sent if no reply
- If no reply to second SMS, carer is notified





Webster-pak is prepared



Webster-pak is given to the patient



**Dosage Time is reached** 









Has patient responded to SMS Reminder?



**SMS** is sent to patient



2<sup>nd</sup> SMS sent to patient



SMS Sent to Carer/Family Member

### **CAPTURED INFORMATION**



- Date and time of SMS sent
- Date and time of reply
- Notifications to carer



- Compliance tracking and reporting
- Medications returned (If in a Webster-pak)

## PRIMARY BENEFITS



- Ensure medication is taken at the correct time
- Carers informed of no response so that assistance can be provided
- Prevents unnecessary hospital admissions resulting from poor medication compliance
- Improving health outcomes



## WHY IT WORKS



- Most people are accessible via a mobile phone
- No stigma with using a mobile phone, unlike other reminder devices
- Cost effective, simple communication method
- Automated from the pharmacy



## **COMPLETING THE LOOP**



- Each Webster-pak can include a unique barcode
- Barcode used to record medication returned
- Pharmacy scans barcode & records missed dose





## CONCLUSION



- SMS reaches intended recipient instantaneously
- Carers informed of no response so that assistance can be provided
- Improves medication compliance
- Improves health outcomes





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