

Project: Creative Solutions for Mrs. Wen's Medication Management

Introduction

Mrs. Wen is 70 years old and lives alone on the sixth floor of a building without an elevator.

Every day, she must take several medications before and after meals.

Due to her age and declining visual and memory abilities, she faces several difficulties in managing her medication, including:

1. Difficulty finding medications: she often cannot quickly locate the correct medication among those she keeps at home.
2. Difficulty identifying medications: similar-looking pills and small, hard-to-read labels make it challenging to distinguish them.
3. Forgetting doses: sometimes she forgets to take her medication at the right times, reducing the effectiveness of her treatment.

Our goal was to propose three creative, functional, and low-cost design solutions to help Mrs. Wen manage her medication more easily, safely, and independently.

Our Solutions

1. SmartPill Origami – Modular Organizer

Main idea:

A foldable modular box where each module represents one medication dose (morning, lunch, evening).

Features:

- Color-coded and symbol-marked modules for easy identification
- Tactile opening of each module to take the correct dose
- Materials and cost: cardboard, markers, optional magnets (~€12)

Benefits:

- Helps organize medications efficiently
 - Assists in remembering doses through colors and icons
 - Stimulates visual and tactile memory
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2. Care Companion – Tactile Bracelet**Main idea:**

A lightweight bracelet that reminds Mrs. Wen to take her medication using colors or beads.

Features:

- Color beads representing times of the day (morning, lunch, evening)
- Moving a bead marks a taken dose
- Optional small LED as a visual reminder
- Materials and cost: string, beads, optional LED (~€12)

Benefits:

- Discreet and easy-to-use reminder
 - Supports independence and daily routine
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3. Pill Reminder Board – Medication Board**Main idea:**

A wall or desk board with magnetic or card-based tiles displaying daily medications.

Features:

- Color-coded or symbol-marked tiles for each medication
- Separate sections for morning, lunch, and evening
- Move or flip tiles to mark taken medications
- Materials and cost: cardboard or plastic base, magnetic tiles or cards, markers (~€12)

Benefits:

- Provides an immediate visual reminder
- Stimulates tactile and visual memory
- Easy to update and simple to use

Complementarity of the Three Solutions

- SmartPill Origami helps with organization and identification of medications.
- Care Companion provides a personal and discreet reminder.
- Pill Reminder Board offers a daily visual reminder at a glance.

Together, they address all of Mrs. Wen's main problems — finding, identifying, and remembering medications — without requiring complex technology and while staying within a low budget.

Conclusion

We developed three creative, low-cost, and easily implementable solutions designed to improve Mrs. Wen's quality of life, enhance medication management safety, and support her independence.

All three proposals are economical, intuitive, and adaptable, ideal for elderly people living alone and managing multiple medications.