

Reducing Medication Management Burden in Senior Living Communities

Medication
Management
PARTNERS



Medication management is one of the most time-consuming responsibilities in assisted living and memory care communities. The process of preparing, administering, documenting, and coordinating medications places a significant burden on staff, often pulling them away from direct resident care. As staffing shortages continue to challenge the industry, operators must find ways to streamline medication management without compromising safety or compliance.

Caregivers spend up to **40%** of their time on pharmacy-related responsibilities.

The Impact of Medication Management on Staff Workload

Medication administration accounts for a substantial portion of direct care staff's daily tasks. Between medication passes, resident-specific requests, documentation, and addressing medication-related issues, caregivers may spend up to 40% of their time on pharmacy-related responsibilities. This burden leads to:

- Increased staff burnout and turnover
- Reduced time available for direct resident interaction
- Higher risk of medication errors due to rushed administration
- Compliance risks associated with documentation lapses

When medication management becomes overwhelming, resident experience suffers, and operational inefficiencies escalate.

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Best Practices for Reducing Medication Burden in Senior Living

1. Strengthening eMAR Integration and Pharmacy Advocacy

A well-integrated electronic medication administration record (eMAR) system, combined with a pharmacy partner that actively advocates for staff and residents, can greatly reduce medication-related inefficiencies. Strong eMAR integration ensures:

- Accurate medication tracking and real-time updates to minimize errors
- Seamless medication orders and refill workflows to prevent disruptions
- Improved compliance oversight with automated documentation

2. Partnering with a Pharmacy That Specializes in Senior Living

Not all pharmacy providers are designed for the needs of assisted living and memory care communities. A dedicated senior living pharmacy partner understands the workflow challenges and offers:

- Proactive refill management to prevent missing doses
- Cycle filled medication to improve staff efficiency
- Family engagement

This approach allows caregivers to focus on resident well-being instead of navigating complex pharmacy logistics.

3. Training Staff on Medication Efficiency & Compliance

Many medication management inefficiencies stem from a lack of formalized training. Ensuring staff members are properly trained on best practices, compliance protocols, and technology usage can drastically reduce errors and improve efficiency. Effective training should include:

- Medication pass efficiency techniques
- Compliance & documentation best practices
- How to work effectively with pharmacy partners

4. Reducing Polypharmacy & Enhancing Medication Coordination

Many residents in senior living take multiple medications, increasing the risk of medication interactions, duplicate prescriptions, and adherence challenges. A well-structured medication review program, in partnership with a senior care pharmacy, can:

- Identify unnecessary or duplicate medications
- Ensure doses are optimized for seniors' needs
- Reduce the time staff spend managing complex medication regimens

■ Conclusion

Medication management will always be a critical component of senior living operations, but it doesn't have to overwhelm staff. By integrating pharmacy technology, choosing the right pharmacy partner, improving training, and optimizing medication regimens, operators can create a more efficient, compliant, and resident-focused environment.

If your community is looking for ways to reduce medication-related burdens, let's connect. Medication Management Partners specializes in helping senior living operators streamline medication administration while improving resident care.

Contact us today to learn more!