

Best Practices for a Streamlined Med Pass

Senior living residents take an average of 8 to 15 medications each day. In a 100-resident community, that means staff may administer up to **more than 1,000 medication doses each day**. Standardized processes and technology help ensure every resident receives the right medication, at the right dose, at the right time.

01

Leverage eMAR Technology

Use Electronic Medication Administration Records (eMARs) to simplify documentation, improve accuracy, and provide real-time visibility into medication administration.

Benefits:

- Reduces manual documentation
- Improves medication tracking
- Identifies missed doses and exceptions quickly
- Supports regulatory compliance

02

Integrate Pharmacy and Resident Records

Connected systems help eliminate duplicate data entry and reduce communication errors between caregivers, nurses, and pharmacy partners.

Best Practice:

- Maintain synchronized pharmacy and resident health records
- Help ensure medication information is current across all platforms

03

Monitor Medication Exceptions in Real Time

Address medication refusals, missed doses, and scheduling issues immediately to minimize resident risk and maintain continuity of care.

Focus On:

- Missed doses
- Refusals
- Late administration
- Follow-up actions

04

Partner with Clinical Pharmacists

Pharmacists provide expertise beyond dispensing by reviewing medication regimens, identifying interactions, supporting chronic disease management, and educating staff.

Impact:

- Reduced medication-related risks
- Improved resident outcomes
- Enhanced staff confidence and competency

05

Reduce Administrative Burden

Automation allows caregivers to spend less time on paperwork and more time with residents.

Result:

More efficient medication passes and increased direct resident care time.

06

Use Data to Drive Continuous Improvement

Dashboards and reporting tools help leaders identify trends, monitor performance, and prioritize quality improvement initiatives.

Track Key Metrics:

- Med pass accuracy
- Compliance rates
- Exception trends
- Workflow efficiencies

07

Prepare for Increasing Medication Complexity

Residents often take an average of 15 medications, increasing the risk of interactions, errors, and non-adherence. Streamlined processes are essential to managing polypharmacy safely.

The Bottom Line

A streamlined medication pass combines **technology, pharmacist expertise, integrated workflows, and actionable data** to improve safety, efficiency, compliance, and resident outcomes.

Sources:

- <https://www.augusthealth.com/resources/the-evolution-of-medication-management-in-assisted-living-insights-from-a-year-of-emar-data>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2910133/>