

# Benefits of Unit Dose Packaging

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 21.7% of people used three or more prescription drugs in a 30-day period, and 10.6% of people used five or more prescription drugs in the past 30 days (2007-2010). With so many prescriptions and wound care dressing prescribed in the United States, it is easy to understand how either are used incorrectly, which delays the recovery process.

### How it Works

This is why unit dose packaging is an innovative approach to prescriptions and wound care dressing therapies. In the case of wound care dressings, the clinician orders the dressing, which is prepared by a local pharmacy or a local, regional or national durable medical equipment (DME) supplier. Ideally, the wound care dressings are delivered in individual unit packets. However, there are instances when supplies are delivered in one large box with no designation of what to use or how much to use. It's important to seek out companies that package every dressing change in individual packages, specific to the clinician's orders and includes everything a patient needs for one dressing change.

### Benefits to Patients

Unit dose packaging for wound supplies is beneficial to both patients and healthcare providers. For patients, this approach streamlines the healing process by increasing compliance, shortening the heal time and reducing the instance of misuse.

For the patient, unit dose packaging creates a simpler situation. After a patient is discharged or leaves a clinic, they have to figure out what supplies their clinician wants them to have and where to purchase those supplies. Often, this can be overwhelming for the patient as well as for family members and caretakers.

With unit dose packaging, patients can feel confident that they will have exactly what they need delivered direct to their home. They receive exactly how much they need for a dressing change without wasting supplies or using a product that their healthcare provider didn't intend for them to use.

### Value to Healthcare Providers

Additionally, there is a significant benefit to the healthcare provider.

### NOTES:

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With unit dose packaging, it helps decrease administration error. The clinician's orders can be followed in a clear and systematic approach. For the healthcare provider, it's valuable to know that the specific supplies and products that are recommended or prescribed to patients are used properly once the patient returns home. It creates uniformity in a patient's treatment plan, and they receive the proper care that was ordered by their provider. This process ensures optimal patient care.

Healthcare providers love unit dose packaging because it simplifies the process on both ends, especially in the elderly population. Often, they go home with numerous therapies and medications for multiple chronic illnesses that they are managing. With unit dose packaging, the guesswork is removed from the situation, and the result is better safety and compliance, which is an achievement to the overall healthcare system in the United States.

Ultimately, unit dose packaging is about the patient. With it, they are less likely to get confused, overwhelmed and frustrated with their treatment plan. When wound care therapies are used correctly, the healing process is faster and more efficient, thus improving patient outcomes.

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