



Media Contact:

Amy Hinton

Solutions Manager – Pharmacy Automation

Email: media.healthcare.us@swisslog.com

Phone: 303-229-3873

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Access to On Site Medication Solutions Help Pharmacies Address Increased Higher Acuity Patients at Skilled Nursing Facilities

Swisslog Healthcare helps to address increased medication needs for higher acuity patients in long-term care settings through in-facility dispensing technology.

Broomfield, CO (March 23, 2021) - Long-term care (LTC) pharmacies and facilities play a critical role in caring for the needs of an aging population with a lengthening lifespan. An expanding higher acuity aging population and limited clinical resources raise the importance of accurate and cost-effective medication management to provide quality care. To help address these challenges, long-term care facilities and pharmacies are partnering with [Swisslog Healthcare](#) to deliver in-facility dispensing technology that increases medication access, reduces staff time for preparation of medication passes, minimizes waste and supports improved resident quality of care.

The population of seniors age 65 and older in the United States is projected to almost double by [2060](#). The aging of the baby boomer generation is also projecting a 50% increase in the number of people needing nursing home care by [2030](#). Skilled nursing facilities are experiencing an increase in patients with complex medical concerns, with pressures for shorter hospital stays contributing to these challenges. Add to that the typical long-term care resident takes an average of 12 [prescriptions](#) per month, and together these factors translate to long-term care pharmacies and facilities caring for higher acuity patient populations.

These factors underscore the need for increased access and availability of medications for residents at long-term care facilities. Waiting to attain prescriptions from remote-site LTC pharmacies may result in delayed patient care, particularly for after-hours [admissions](#). When long term care facilities and pharmacies utilize [in-facility medication dispensing and packaging systems](#), they are able to provide access to medication inventory at the time of admissions or if there are new or changes to existing prescriptions. This is a value-based automation technology that can lead to reduced readmissions by overcoming medication management challenges.



With this model, in-facility medication inventory is determined by the pharmacy prescriber and the facility clinical team.

In long-term care facilities, nurses spend a large amount of time working on medication preparation and passes, as well as reconciling narcotics. Using an [in-facility system](#) eliminates blister card management because it delivers “on demand” prescribed medications, which enables the exact dosage to be dispensed directly to the nurse, only when needed. The medication management process creates a streamlined med-pass, cutting the number of steps in half and limiting the opportunity for medication errors. Consequently, improving nurse and resident satisfaction by freeing nurses to spend more time with residents.

To thrive in today’s competitive market, long-term care pharmacies need to operate efficiently, take full advantage of reimbursement opportunities and deliver excellent client service. Remote dispensing, powered by automated packaging and dispensing systems, reduces the number of daily medication deliveries, saves pharmacy labor and coordination time, minimizes drug waste processing typical of blister cards and enables the capture of additional short-cycle dispensing fees. Swisslog Healthcare’s [InSite® In-Facility Medication Packaging and Dispensing System](#) makes it easy to manage prescription changes and improve medication availability in long-term care facilities.

“As a pharmacist, I have observed long-term care facilities challenged with a more complex, higher acuity patient base while also confronted with limited clinical resources. This emphasized the importance of pharmacist oversight and accurate, cost-effective medication management in providing quality care,” explains Huan Nguyen, R.Ph., Vice President, Long-Term Care Business Development at Swisslog Healthcare.

Long-term care pharmacies can learn more about the InSite In-Facility Medication Packaging and Dispensing System in the Swisslog Healthcare virtual booth at the annual [MHA Business Summit](#) March 24 - 25, 2021.

For more information on Swisslog Healthcare or in-facility packaging and dispensing automation, visit swisslog-healthcare.com/MHA.

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About Swisslog Healthcare

Swisslog Healthcare is a leading supplier of solutions and services for medication management, combining both transport and pharmacy automation. Swisslog Healthcare has installed facility-wide transport and pharmacy automation systems in more than 3,000 healthcare institutions worldwide. The company offers integrated solutions from a single source – from consulting to design, implementation to lifetime customer service. For more information, visit www.swisslog-healthcare.com.

Swisslog Healthcare is a member of the KUKA Group, a leading global supplier of intelligent automation solutions.