

# Health care: iPhone app reminds users to take medication

A US company has launched an "app" for Apple's iPhone and iPod Touch that reminds people to take their medication and also provides periodic news in relation to their condition.

The "app," called "HealthAssist(sm)" is free.

The company release it, WellCare Today LLC, says that it " helps users, especially those with chronic diseases, with the following features:

- CalendarAlert(sm) provides the user with a scheduled text reminder for each medication
- RefillAlert(sm) provides the user with a reminder of when they need to request a prescription refill
- HealthAlert(sm) provides the user each month with "condition-related:"
- Breaking-news headlines
- Health management articles
- Dialogue forums or chat rooms
- Clinical trials
- EMRAAlert(sm) provides the user with an easy way to store and update a private electronic medical record"

The company quotes a report by the New England Healthcare Institute that says "'one third to one half of all patients do not take their medications properly. Patients with chronic diseases - which affect more than half of all Americans - are particularly susceptible to spotty adherence practices that leave them vulnerable to otherwise unnecessary hospitalisations and additional medical risks."