

# PM&R Assistive Technology Programs

Volume 11 Issue 1

Fall 2021

## Apple Products Potential Magnetic Interference with Medical Devices



Keep 6"



<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT211900>

### Inside this issue:

Product Review: 2  
Magnetic Button  
Adaptor Set

Site Updates: Hines 3  
VA

Site Updates: Tampa 4  
and Richmond

Voice Control - iOS 5  
Accessibility

Product Review: 6  
The Eyegaze Edge

Product Review: 8  
The MedaCube

AT Education Re- 10  
sources

Many consumer-electronic devices contain magnets or components and radios that emit electromagnetic fields. Magnetic interference and medical devices. Under certain conditions, magnets and electromagnetic fields might interfere with medical devices. For example, implanted pacemakers and defibrillators might contain sensors that respond to magnets and radios when in close contact. To avoid any potential interactions with these types of medical devices, keep your Apple product a safe distance away from your medical device (more than 6 inches / 15 cm apart or more than 12 inches / 30 cm apart if wirelessly charging). Consult with your physician and your device manufacturer for specific guidelines.

If you suspect that your Apple product is interfering with your medical device, stop using your Apple product and consult your physician and your medical-device manufacturer.

These Apple products contain magnets

Keep these products a safe distance away from your medical device:

- ◆ AirPods and charging cases
- ◆ AirPods and Charging Case
- ◆ AirPods and Wireless Charging Case
- ◆ AirPods Pro and Wireless Charging Case
- ◆ AirPods Max and Smart Case
- ◆ Apple Watch and accessories
- ◆ Apple Watch
- ◆ Apple Watch bands with magnets
- ◆ Apple Watch magnetic charging accessories
- ◆ HomePod

- ◆ HomePod
- ◆ HomePod mini
- ◆ iPad and accessories
- ◆ iPad
- ◆ iPad mini
- ◆ iPad Air
- ◆ iPad Pro
- ◆ iPad Smart Covers and Smart Folios
- ◆ iPad Smart Keyboard and Smart Keyboard Folio
- ◆ Magic Keyboard for iPad
- ◆ iPhone and MagSafe accessories
- ◆ iPhone 12 models
- ◆ MagSafe accessories
- ◆ Mac and accessories
- ◆ Mac mini
- ◆ Mac Pro
- ◆ MacBook Air
- ◆ MacBook Pro
- ◆ iMac
- ◆ Apple Pro Display XDR
- ◆ Beats
- ◆ Beats Flex
- ◆ BeatsX
- ◆ Powerbeats Pro
- ◆ UrBeats3

Certain other Apple products contain magnets that are unlikely to interfere with medical devices. We provide more information on safety in the Important Safety Information sections of the [user guides for Apple products](#).

AT Newsletter Edited by:  
Melissa Oliver, MS OTR/L  
Richmond AT Program  
Coordinator

## AT PRODUCT REVIEW: Magnetic Button Adapter Set

By Sarrah Leone, OTR/L, Sarah Lovelace, OTR/L  
Supervised by Jamie Basch, OTR/L



### Overview

The Magnetic Button Adapter set is an off-the-shelf low-tech assistive device that can allow users to dress and undress with increased ease by converting buttons (such as those found on button up shirts) to magnets. One set of magnetic adapters includes 10 button adapters that are designed to fit over medium sized buttons by snapping the adapter into place. This device allows users with limited dexterity related challenges to manage shirts to regain the ability for independent dressing. The magnetic button adapter set is a component of adaptive fashion that create a sense of inclusion to veterans interested in enhancing participation in activities by allowing them to wear preferred attire for work, formal events, and/or personal choice.

### Appropriate Populations

The Magnetic Button Adaptor set is appropriate for those who experience difficulty with manipulating buttons due to fine motor challenges including limited dexterity/coordination, and/or hemiparesis. Primary populations that may benefit include veterans diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, Arthritis, SCI, CVA, ALS, MS, post-surgical, and/or veteran's experiencing age-related physical decline.

### Indications

The Magnetic Button Adapter set is appropriate for users with dexterity related difficulties to increase independence with clothing management.

### Contraindications

The Magnetic Button Adapter Set is contraindicated for those with pacemakers, VNS implants, or implanted defibrillators.

### Evaluation Criteria

**Acceptability:** This is an aesthetically acceptable device as it mimics the design of a button which increases wear comfortability in public and private areas. The Magnetic Button Adapter Set does not change the appearance of clothing, other than potentially the color of the button.

**Compatibility:** Compatible with clothing that has 1/2 inch diameter buttons, not compatible for buttons that are larger or smaller in diameter. Does not work well with tight fitting clothing or buttoned clothing with stress points at the chest, neck, of stomach areas.

**Costs:** One set of 10 adapters is available from wareologie.com for \$34.95. Additional retailers include thewrightstuff.com, caregiverproducts.com, and amazon.com.

**Customizability:** Low. The Magnetic Buttons were created for the average button size (~1/2 inch diameter) and will not work with buttons of different sizes. It also comes in only one color.

**Device Purchasing:** The adaptor set can be purchased directly from the websites listed above. Alternatives may also be purchased from appropriate websites.

**Ease of Assembly:** Minimal fine motor ability is required for installation as the buttons are small (less than 3/4 inch diameter) which may require caregiver assistance and takes approximately 5-15 minutes. Magnetic buttons are installed on each side of the clothing by snapping 1 piece over current button and then snapping 2 pieces together through the buttonhole on the opposite side. No sewing required. User reviews indicate installation is easy and simple.

**Ease of Maintenance:** This device is machine washable and dryer resistant with one time installation needed. The button adaptors are also semi-attachable

allowing the user or caregiver to remove the buttons to transfer to other shirts for seasonal updates.

**Effectiveness:** This device is effective in increasing the user's independence with clothing management by eliminating the continuous need to engage in the fine motor task of buttoning. In addition, this decreases the need to replace the users wardrobe allowing them to wear clothing of their choice which increases quality of life and engagement in daily activities. Without a device such as this one, some users may have to purchase additional clothing without buttons limiting choice and causing financial burden.

**Learnability:** After installation, the Magnet Button Adaptor Set requires little to no training or technical knowledge. However, the user may benefit from minimal education on effective body posi-



tioning if gross motor coordination is impaired.

**Operability:** Easy to use and install with positive consumer feedback thus far per product website.

**Physical Comfort:** No physical pain is associated with this device. Per reviews from website, no physical discomfort or additional weight to clothing has been reported.

**Portability:** Once installed, the buttons remain on the clothing. Buttons are not generalizable to button sizes other than 1/2 inch diameter. (cont. page 3)

## AT PRODUCT REVIEW: Amazon Echo Show 8, cont.

**Reliability:** Buttons are durable and are not expected to detach from clothing unless consumer physically removes adaptor to transfer to other clothing. The button adapters do not work as well with tight fitted clothing therefore may decrease the ability to maintain closure for long periods of time.

**Repairability:** Buttons can be snapped back into place as long as the structure of the button is unchanged. All devices from Warologie have a 3-month warranty that covers any defects or damage occurred during shipping. If a button breaks after warranty period, a new set will need to be ordered as they would be difficult to repair. The Magnetic Buttons are also eligible for a refund within 30 days of purchase if the user is not satisfied with the device.

**Securability:** Device remains secure on shirt after installation.

**Upgradability:** Potential for future accommodations for varying button sizes.

<https://wareologie.com/shop/magnetic-button-adaptor-set/>

	1	2	3	4	5
	Not satisfied at all	Not very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Very Satisfied
	Category			Score	
	Acceptability			5	
	Compatibility			NA	
	Connectivity			NA	
	Costs			4	
	Customizability			3	
	Device of Purchase			4	
	Ease of Assembly			4	
	Ease of Maintenance			5	
	Effectiveness			5	
	Learnability			5	
	Operability			5	
	Physical Comfort			5	
	Portability			4	
	Reliability			5	
	Repairability			4	
	Securability			5	
	Upgradability			4	
	<b>Average</b>			<b>4.5</b>	

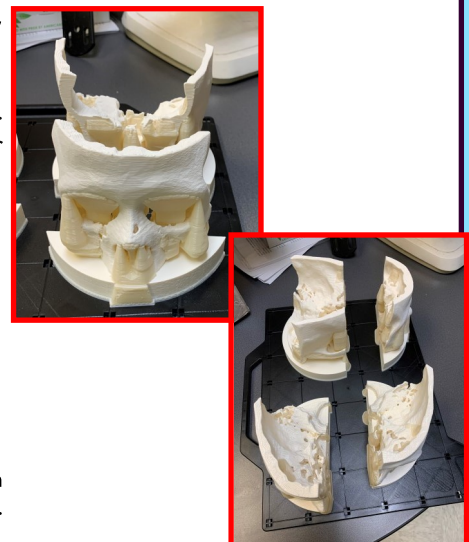
## Congratuations to Victor Rivera, Hines InnoVAtor of the Month

Dr. Mital Patel, Hines Radiology, Dr. Sonia Bobra, Hines Radiology and **Victor Rivera, Rehab Engineer**

This innovative team applied to the Hines local innovation program in May 2021. After receiving approval to move forward with their project, they worked with our ENT team to select appropriate CT scans of the sinus area for 3D printing.

The goal of 3D printing is to turn images into real life models. These models are helpful for patient education, resident training, and preprocedural planning.

Relying on the expertise of Victor Rivera, the team successfully printed detailed 3D models of the selected images. Here are a few pictures of the models the team created.



Their next project is with Dr. Amit Goyal, Interventional Pulmonologist. The team plans to print tracheobronchial anatomy for bronchoscopy and surgical planning. Great job!

## Site Update...Tampa

### OUTREACH

- ◆ Ongoing collaboration with New Orleans VA Speech Pathology for growth of AT Program and Services
- ◆ Collaboration with San Antonio VA Speech Pathology for growth of AT Program and Services In-services for various units in the hospital to educate nursing staff on AAC and setup of eyegaze for inpatients

### PRESENTATIONS

- ◆ Telina Caudill and Ursula Draper presented during the Rehabilitation Grand Rounds entitled "How to Build Vendor Relationships: 3 Simple Steps to Empower Your AAC Practice"

- ◆ **TELEHEALTH**  
AT had 919 VVC encounters during FY2021

### CURRENT PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

- ◆ Ongoing AT Mentoring with New Orleans and Biloxi
- ◆ Updating educational materials and digitizing for increased access during COVID-19
- ◆ Initiating new protocol for default page-set on loaner devices for admitted patients to decrease staff and pt burden during periods of medical decompensation and procedures



## Site Update...Richmond



- ◆ Telina Caudill (Tampa VA AT team) and **Brittany Reed** presented during the Telerehabilitation Enterprise Wide Initiative (TREWI) Grand Rounds on 3/5/21. The title of the presentation was Tele-AT: A Shift in Paradigm During COVID-19.

◆ Polytruma Nursing Skills Days via TEAMS.

- ◆ Brian Burkhardt and Melissa Oliver presented to VCU OT students on clinical use of 3D printing.

### TELEHEALTH

- ◆ VVC increased from FY20 in Quarter 2 by 208%

encounters.

### CURRENT PROJECTS AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

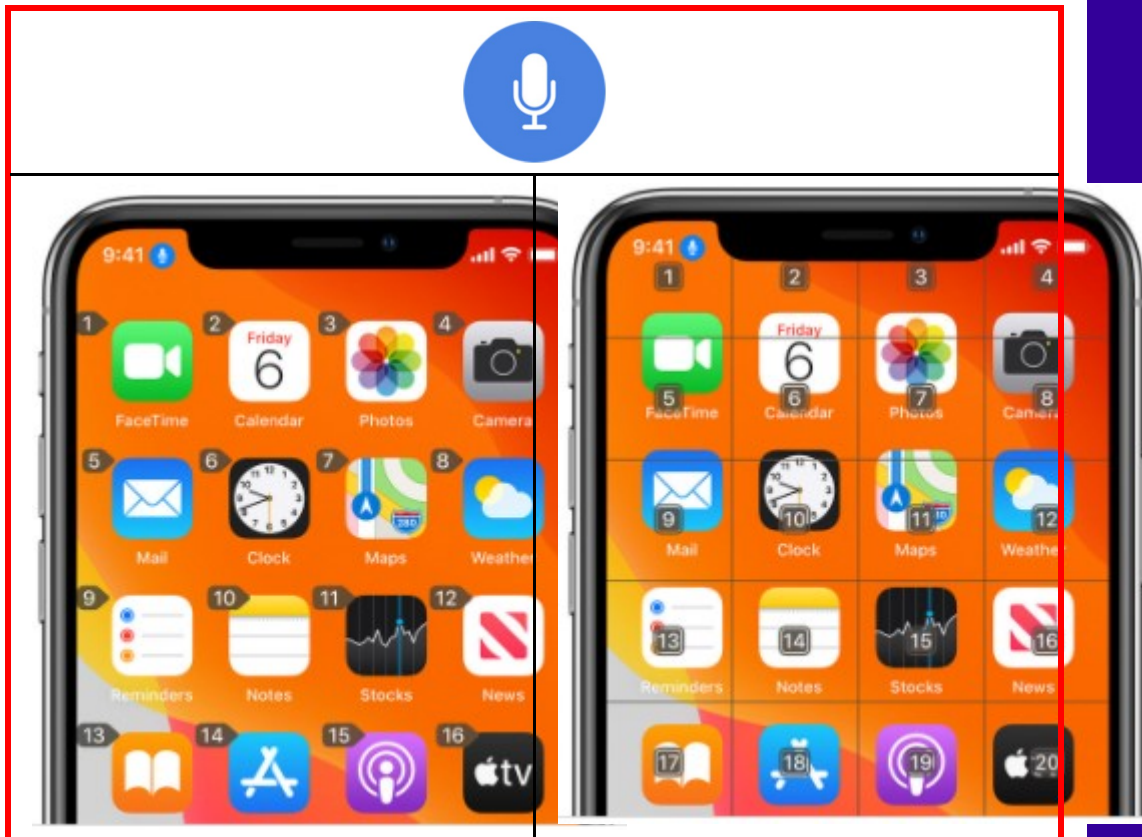
- ◆ Preparation for CARF 2021.
- ◆ Quality Life+ Project with engineering students at California Polytechnic State University.

### OUTREACH

- ◆ AT was added as a member of the VA Neurology Advisory Committee.
- ◆ Provided mentorship to several VAs about setting up 3D Printing programs.

### PRESENTATIONS

## Voice Control - iOS Accessibility Setting for Physical and Motor Impairments



The purpose of this article is to highlight the iOS accessibility feature *Voice Control*, which was introduced in iOS 13 for users with physical and motor impairments. *Voice Control* allows users to control their iPhone or iPad with just their voice, giving them full access to every major function of the operating system and enabling them to tap, swipe, type, and perform gestures. For users with motor limitations, having full control of their devices using just their voice is truly transformative. In the following video, I demonstrate the utility of *Voice Control* and showcase some of the most commonly used voice commands for dictation and control of the device: <https://youtu.be/d9bM4I-bWIs>

To get started with *Voice Control*, Apple Support has provided two excellent videos for reference:

How to use *Voice Control*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80AyUCjZYZM>

How to use dictation and edit text with *Voice Control*: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-ykg3jZ9\\_k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-ykg3jZ9_k)

In addition to these videos, iMore has provided an extensive list of voice commands detailing everything you can do with *Voice Control* on iPhone and iPad: <https://www.imore.com/everything-you-can-do-voice-control-iphone-and-ipad>

## AT PRODUCT REVIEW: The Eyegaze Edge, by Eyegaze, Inc.

By: Alexis Trevino, BA, Graduate Student Clinician  
Telina Caudill, MS, CCC-SLP, ATP



### Overview

The Eyegaze Edge is a tablet communication system that allows users to communicate, control their environment, use mobile devices, and operate numerous applications through eye gaze. This allows the veteran to maintain a degree of independence and interpersonal connection despite any injuries or conditions they may have.

### Indications

Those who are unable to effectively communicate verbally or through a touch method. Applicable populations may include those with ALS, spinal cord injuries, Cerebral Palsy, severe stroke, or multiple and complex conditions. Eye gaze requires adequate control of at least one eye for effective use, as well as the ability to maintain a position in front of the eye gaze camera/screen. The user does not have to be fully literate, as the Edge's integration of EyeWorld 3 software allows for symbol-based communication. The manufacturer lists unique features of the device to include success with users who have nystagmus, droopy eyelids, partially blocked pupils and in sitting, reclining and side-lying positions.

### Contraindications

This device is not ideal for those with significantly impaired vision, including cataracts, alternating strabismus, and nystagmus. Progressive lenses have been known to cause difficulty with accurate eye tracking. In addition, uncontrolled head movement may interfere with the device obtaining an accurate image of the patient's gaze. This device is not suggested for those with severe cognitive impairment that would impede new learning.

### Criteria for Evaluation of Assistive

### Technology Device

**Affordability:** The Eyegaze Edge costs \$12,500 without insurance. This includes the device, software, eye tracking package, on-site installation and training, Bluetooth keyboard and loudspeaker, carrying case, and limited hardware warranty. It is an additional \$3,340 for a standing mount and a wheelchair mount. The extended one-year warranty is an additional \$750.

**Compatibility:** The EyeWorld 3 web browser is compatible with Google Chrome, allowing the user to link browser history and settings to a Google account. EyeWorld 3 also allows for environmental control of devices that utilize radio and near-infrared frequency, including cable TV, sound systems, lights, and switches. The user can pair the device with Android 4.0 and iPhones to make calls and SMS texting, although users have reported easier syncing with Android devices. In addition, users can pair their Amazon Echo devices to the device to allow for further environmental control.

**Consumer Repairability:** The Eyegaze Edge is essentially a Microsoft Surface tablet with specialized software and access methods, so consumer repairability is highly dependent upon user familiarity with computer/tablet systems. For the average client, consumer repairability is limited to device resets and basic troubleshooting. Extensive repair would need to be completed by a representative, which would be included in your one year of hardware warranty and lifetime technical support.

**Dependability:** This device is advertised as being highly dependable across varying settings and clients; however, we have experienced significant difficulty with calibration and use. The device operated efficiently in a setting with the user sitting upright, parallel to the device screen, no interfering optical conditions, and bright indoor lighting, which is not always representative of everyday use. Practically, calibration has been found to be arduous to clients who are bedridden, in dimmed lighting, and with inconsistent facial spasms,

which the manufacturer claims not to be an issue for the device's eye tracking camera.

**Durability:** Given the fragility of tablet devices, the Eyegaze Edge includes a carrying case for hardware protection. Even with the protective case, the eye tracking camera protrudes from the device, making it more vulnerable to damage.

**Ease of Assembly:** User accounts report that device set-up is daunting to those who are unfamiliar with tablets and other high-tech devices. Eyegaze, Inc. offers both remote and in-person device set-up and training for new users. Calibration is reported to take less than 15 seconds, although that has not been our experience.



**Ease of Maintenance:** Battery life only comes to 1 hour 30 minutes while executing high-performance activities (e.g., eye-tracking, web browsing, video/music). This can be extended to 8 hours with the Endurance battery pack, which is an additional \$250.

**Effectiveness:** Once properly trained, this device offers many functions and benefits for the user that is matched to it. The Eyegaze Edge allows users to maintain interpersonal connections, remain in control of their environment, and participate in the world around them. (cont. page 7)

## AT PRODUCT REVIEW: The Eyegaze Edge, cont.

**Flexibility:** The calibration settings (number of points, size of points, location) can be customized according to the user’s abilities and needs; however, it is important to note that all other software must be closed to access eye gaze settings, which may be bothersome. EyeWorld comes with numerous grids pre-installed, including English/Spanish, large text for visual impairment, subject-specific grids, and symbol-based grids. The EyeWorld grids are highly customizable, with the option to create your own. The process of creating your own communication grid is relatively simple. The Eyegaze Edge is primarily intended for eye gaze access; however, the device allows for both touch and keyboard/mouse input. It does not offer switch scanning capability. Camera options include the Prime or Encore.

**Learnability:** Independent learnability is highly dependent upon the user’s knowledge and comfort with high-tech devices. Regardless of this, Eyegaze, Inc. offers both remote and home set-up and device training for the user and caregiver(s).

**Operability:** Start up time for each use is very brief. The operability of the Eyegaze Edge is dependent upon the accuracy of the user’s calibration, which has been difficult to obtain in certain circumstances. Controls and displays can be customized and adjusted to meet the user’s operational capabilities (key size, field options, symbol vs. text, etc.)

**Personal Acceptability:** All new eye gaze users may be initially uncomfortable engaging in conversation through this modality. The device itself is high-tech and has a sleek design with neutral coloring, leading it to not stand out.

**Physical Comfort:** The eye gaze modality always presents the possibility of user fatigue after prolonged use. To address this, all EyeWorld communication grids have a “rest” option to allow eye gaze to pause while the user rests their eyes. When paired with the correct mount and positioned appropriately, the Eyegaze Edge should not cause any pain or discomfort in the shoulders, neck, or head.

**Portability:** Physical relocation of the device is simple, as it comes with a carrying case and can also be mounted on the veteran’s wheelchair if they have access to the appropriate mount. The battery life with eye gaze is significantly shortened, so the user and caregiver would have to take additional measures to save battery life if it is unable to be charged for a prolonged period.

**Securability:** The default package for the Eyegaze Edge includes an adjustable arm to securely mount the device to any table. Other packages include wheelchair and rolling floor stand mounts to keep the device secure. The device is Windows operated, giving the patient the option of password protecting their information; however, upon start-up, the device requires touch input to enter the password, which would require additional assistance

**Supplier Repairability:** Accessories can be replaced through representatives at an in-home visit or by mail. Repairs and warranty claims for the tablet itself require the device to be sent to the manufacturer, and the typical turnaround time is unspecified.

1	2	3	4	5
Not satisfied at all	Not very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Very Satisfied
<b>Category</b>		<b>Score</b>		
Affordability		2		
Compatibility		4		
Consumer Repairability		3		
Dependability		2		
Durability		3		
Ease of Assembly		5		
Ease of Maintenance		3		
Effectiveness		5		
Flexibility		5		
Learnability		5		
Operability		3		
Personal acceptability		5		
Physical Comfort		5		
Physical Security		4		
Portability		3		
Securability		4		
Supplier Repairability		2		
<b>Average</b>		<b>3.7</b>		

## AT PRODUCT REVIEW: MedaCube: Automatic Pill Dispenser

By: Olivia Rossi, Rehabilitation Technology Intern and Melissa Oliver, MS, OTR/L

(Central Virginia VA Health Care System)



### Overview

The MedaCube is an automatic pill dispenser that sorts prescriptions based on timed dosages. It can hold up to 16 different standard sized pills with a capacity of a 90 day supply for each; the frequency of refill and setup depends on the number and dosage of each prescription. The MedaCube will run the patient's pill schedule as programmed until changed; the device sends reminders when a medication is low in stock. The device can also provide reminders to take medications that are unable to be loaded such as insulin, inhalers or unauthorized pill types such as liquid filled, gummy, chewable or dissolvable. Half pills can be used if placed in a gelatin capsule; a doctor or pharmacist should be consulted on this feature. Typically, a caregiver will load and set the routine for each medication for the user. When time to take a scheduled pill, the MedaCube dispenses the pills into the receptacle and announces it to the user. A notification can be programmed to be sent to the user via phone call, email or text. As needed medications are also able to be programmed into the device; medical safety information is programmed into the MedaCube to prevent overdosing.

### Indications

MedaCube is appropriate for individuals with low grip strength or hand tremors who are unable to open pill bottles. This product is also appropriate for patients with mild cognitive impairments such as memory deficits or dementia.

### Contraindications

Patients unable to swallow their medication independently are not indicated for this product. In general, this device is not indicated for users with severe sensory impairments. Patients with visual impairments would not be able to set up the device via the touch screen interface; patients with severe hearing impairments would not be able to hear the device's auditory reminders. Additional contraindications would be patients who only take medication via injection or other unsupported pill types such as dissolvable, liquid capsule etc. or take more than 16 different pill medications.

\*\*\*For patients with sensory impairments, the MedaCube offers additional accessibility for notifications and online medication management. Patients with hearing impairments could utilize alternative notifications such as email, phone, or text message for accessible medication reminders. Patients with visual impairments could have a caregiver set up the MedaCube via the touchscreen or enable the online portal to program medications and continue to use the machine independently.

### Criteria for Evaluation of Assistive Technology Device:

#### Affordability:

The MedaCube is available for purchase at \$1,549 for a refurbished device or \$1,749 for a new device. This device is a one-time purchase with no additional fees for the Wi-Fi model. If the user buys the model adapted with cellular option, it is an additional \$30/month.

#### Compatibility:

The device does not utilize an application so is compatible with any device that has internet connection for the caregiver to monitor medication activity. It connects via Wi-Fi to the cloud to securely store these reports. Notifications can come in the form of email, text, or phone call, however, the primary notification comes from an announcement from the MedaCube itself.

### Consumer Repairability:

The caregiver could repair some simple issues such as timing of doses and reminders however larger issues with the equipment would be the responsibility of the manufacturer. They offer a technical support phone number and email. The MedaCube is under warranty for 90 days for larger repairs the consumer is unable to perform.

### Dependability:

The MedaCube is very dependable after initial set up. It is powered via a wall outlet and has a battery backup that lasts up to 24 hours in the event of a power outage. The device has initial requirements for the date and time zone however it automatically updates via Wi-Fi for daylight savings time.

### Durability:

The MedaCube does nightly maintenance at a set time for its own updates. This product could reliably be used for an extended period of time with its technology and also its ability to adapt to the user's medicine schedule over time.

### Ease of Assembly:

The device is simple to setup. The initial setup of the account is straightforward however it requires time to program to get the medication schedule done correctly. This can be done by the caregiver online or on the MedaCube if the patient is not cognitively able to do this extensive setup. On-screen instructional videos provide directions if needed. Additional learning videos are available on the MedaCube website.

### Ease of Maintenance:

The product is easily cleaned by wiping out compartments with a wet cloth. Additional maintenance includes adding more medication which is an easy action for the caregiver to perform.



## AT PRODUCT REVIEW, cont.: MedaCube

**Effectiveness:**

The patient’s lifestyle is improved by this device as it increases their level of independence and safety. In addition, the caregiver burden is lessened when it comes to medication management. Once the medications are set up in the MedaCube by the caregiver, the user can independently take their pills. The MedaCube is quite loud when announcing its reminder however, if the user is not in the room or is hard of hearing, they would need an additional reminder i.e., phone call, email, or text. The volume is not adjustable.

**Flexibility:**

The manufacturer does not offer other models of the product. Each cube can be modified for the consumer’s schedule for compatible pills as well as other incompatible medicines such as insulin, inhalers, or pills that are unable to be loaded into the device.

**Learnability:**

The product is very learnable; it comes with a small packet of instructions for the initial set up. The account set up and device set up are straightforward. Most of the setup is done on the device itself, however, remote access can be enabled so a caregiver can adjust medications online. Throughout the device’s settings, there are numerous training videos to demonstrate the different functions and operations.

**Operability:**

The MedaCube is easy to operate for the patient. It may take the patient or caregiver some time to program each medicine at first. Once accustomed to the process, it does not take as long. If dispensing an as-needed dose, it takes a little longer as the pills need to be selected whereas a scheduled dose has them ready for the time it’s set to. Additionally, the controls for dispensing as needed medications are all done via touchscreen so they are not accessible for someone with a visual impairment.

**Personal Acceptability:**

The device is fairly aesthetically attractive as a simple 10” x 10” x 10” shiny box with a small touch screen.

No other appearances are available. The medication reminders can be customized to a loved one’s voice so as to not be a jarring robot. Moreover, the device is for home use only, so would only be used in private.

**Physical Comfort:**

No physical discomfort would be caused by this device. It rests on a countertop and should not be moved around. The pill container pops out of the cube and rotates for easy pouring into the consumer’s hand.

**Portability:**

The device should not be moved around. It is a stationary device that performs best when on an even surface. This ensures the proper pill selection and dispensing. If the patient is traveling, the MedaCube is not meant to be taken along. If leaving for an extended trip, the device can either be set to “away” mode or simply unplugged.

**Securability:**

Medications are secured via key lock and the device’s programming. Only the caregiver can access the medications inside with their key and their pin. A tilt sensor allows the product to alert the caregiver or owner of tampering. Additionally, a password can be set for the patient to prevent others from accessing medications. Medications are saved with prescription safety information to prevent overdosing.

**Supplier Repairability:**

The manufacturer is the best place to go for repairs given the complex nature of the device. Local repair shops would not be familiar with the technology to be able to fix malfunctions.

The manufacturer, PharmAdva, assists with repairs and has a 90 day warranty.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Not satisfied at all	Not very satisfied	More or less satisfied	Quite Satisfied	Very Satisfied
	<b>Category</b>			<b>Score</b>	
	Affordability			3	
	Compatibility			4	
	Consumer Repairability			4	
	Dependability			5	
	Durability			4	
	Ease of Assembly			4	
	Ease of Maintenance			3	
	Effectiveness			4	
	Flexibility			3	
	Learnability			4	
	Operability			4	
	Personal acceptability			4	
	Physical Comfort			5	
	Physical Security			5	
	Portability			3	
	Securability			5	
	Supplier Repairability			3	
	<b>Average</b>			<b>3.94</b>	



## Assistive Technology Program Mission

To enhance the ability of Veterans and Active Duty members with disabilities to fulfill life goals through the coordination and provision of appropriate interdisciplinary assistive technology services.

To serve as an expert resource to support the application of assistive technology within the VA health care system

### Assistive Technology Education Resources

#### Assistive Technology Lab/Telehealth Recorded Educational Sessions

- ◆ Interdisciplinary Assistive Technology Team: Building Relationships with Vendors  
*Recorded program: [Building Relationships with Vendors-August 2021](#) by Telina Caudill, SLP AT Lab, Tampa VAMC and Ursula Draper, OT, AT Lab, Tampa VAMC—August 6, 2021*
- ◆ Blind Rehabilitation: Telehealth Group  
*Recorded program: [Blind Rehabilitation Telehealth Group-September 2021](#) by Lisa Colson, AuD, CCC-A, Lindsay Johnson, MS, CLVT, VRT, Nicole Militello, M.A., CVRT, CATIS, David Rumer, MS Ed., COMS, CLVT, CATIS, James Strader, MA, COMS and Kimberly Velazquez, MSW, LICSW—September 3, 2021*
- ◆ Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Program: Rehabilitation Prescriptions  
**TEAMS Recording LINK: [Home Improvements and Structural Alterations \(HISA\) Program October 2021](#)** by Shayla Mitchell, Program Analyst, Rehabilitation and Prosthetics Services, VA Central Office, Washington, D.C.—October 1, 2021

#### ADDITIONAL EES OPPORTUNITIES:

- ◆ Making the Connections: A New Virtual Tool—My VA Images by Sara Derycke, Helen Hoening, Kathleen Cronin and Elizabeth Karan—December 3, 2021

