64. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the pill dispenser is in operative communication with at least one patient-care device, wherein the pill dispenser monitors at least one patient-care parameter to upload the patient-care parameter to a server configured to determine efficacy of the pill.

65. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for identifying an authorized user and the pill within the third image to determine compliance.

66. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for identifying an authorized user and a bottom of a cup within the third image to determine compliance.

67. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for decoding a bar code within the third image.

68. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, further comprising a communication component in operative communication with the at least one processor, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for relaying a patient-care parameter from a patient-care device via the communication component.

69. The pill dispenser according to claim 1, further comprising a speaker in operative communication with the at least one processor, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for playing a user recorded message to remind a patient to take the pill.

~~70. A pill dispenser, comprising:~~

~~a housing defining an opening;~~

a pill-dispensing mechanism disposed within the housing and operatively coupled to the opening;

a display;

at least one processor in operative communication with the pill-dispensing mechanism and the display; and

a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for displaying a graphic illustrating an image of a patient taking a pill.

71. The pill dispenser according to claim 70, further comprising a button, wherein the graphic is illustrated after the button is pressed.

72. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a housing defining an opening;

a pill-dispensing mechanism disposed within the housing and operatively coupled to the opening;

a communication component;

at least one processor in operative communication with the pill-dispensing mechanism and the communication component; and

a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for determining if one or more pills within the housing are contraindicated as determined via at least one of an electronic medical record and a drug error reduction system accessed via the communication component.

73. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the monitoring client is configured to communicate a pill dispensing schedule to the pill dispenser.

74. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a plurality of monitoring clients in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein a monitoring client of the plurality of monitoring clients is authorized to communicate a pill dispensing schedule to the pill dispenser.

75. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the monitoring client receives at least one image from the pill dispenser.

76. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the monitoring client communicates at least one dispense command to the pill dispenser thereby causing the pill dispenser to dispense the pill.

77. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a monitoring client having a camera and in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the monitoring client authorizes a user using the camera and communicates at least one dispense command to the pill dispenser in response to the authorized user.

78. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and

a monitoring client having a microphone and in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the monitoring client authorizes a user using the microphone and communicates at least one dispense command to the pill dispenser in response to the authorized user.

79. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:
a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and
a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,
wherein the pill dispenser communicates compliance data to the monitoring client.

80. The system according to claim 79, wherein the monitoring client can update a prescription and communicate the updated prescription to the pill dispenser wherein the pill dispenser modifies a pill dispensing schedule in accordance with the updated prescription

81. The system according to claim 79, wherein the monitoring client display a calendar displaying compliant days and noncompliant days.

82. The system according to claim 79, wherein the monitoring client is an authorized monitoring client of a plurality of monitoring clients.

83. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:
a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and
a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,
wherein at least one of the pill dispenser and the monitoring client initiates two-way communications when the pill dispenser determines that non-compliance has occurred.

84. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:
a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill; and
a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,
wherein the pill dispenser communicates an electronic message to the monitoring client when the pill dispenser determines that non-compliance has occurred.

85. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:
a pill dispenser configured to dispense a pill;

an audio/visual device in operative communication with the pill dispenser; and

a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser,

wherein the pill dispenser and the monitoring client are configured for two-way communications and the pill dispenser utilizes the audio/visual device in the two-way communications.

86. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a plurality of pill dispensers each having a camera;

a server for receiving at least one image from each camera; and

a terminal for displaying the at least one image for user determination of compliance.

87. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser; and

a monitoring client having a camera,

wherein the monitoring client is configured to capture an image of a pill to identify the pill and communicate the identified pill to at least one of a server and the pill dispenser.

88. The system according to claim 87, wherein at least one of the server and the pill dispenser is configured to determine if the pill meets predetermined safety criteria in accordance with one or more pills scheduled for being dispensed by the pill dispenser.

89. The system according to claim 87, wherein the monitoring client is configured compare the identified pill with a schedule to determine compliance, wherein the monitoring client logs the determined compliance.

90. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser; and

a monitoring client having a scanner,

wherein the monitoring client is configured to scan a label to identify at least one of a medication and a prescription, and communicate the identified pill or prescription to at least one of a server and the pill dispenser.

91. The system according to claim 90, wherein at least one of the server and the pill dispenser is configured to determine if the pill meets predetermined safety criteria in accordance with one or more pills scheduled for being dispensed by the pill dispenser.

92. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser; and

a monitoring client,

wherein the monitoring client is configured to issue a reminder to take a pill dispensed by the pill dispenser, and wherein the monitoring client is in operative communication with the pill dispenser to determine if the pill has been taken and the monitoring client issues another reminder if the pill has not been taken after a predetermined amount of time.

93. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

a pill dispenser; and

a monitoring client,

wherein the monitoring client is configure to execute a compliance determination algorithm wherein compliance is determined in accordance with at least one of:

compliance is determined via viewing a camera on the pill dispenser from the monitoring client;

compliance is determined via patient confirmation on the pill dispenser;

compliance is determined via patient confirmation on the monitoring client; and

compliance is determined via a pill-viewing camera.

94. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:

~~a pill dispenser having a camera; and~~

~~a monitoring client in operative communication with the pill dispenser and configured to receive a plurality of images taken from the camera of the pill dispenser.~~

~~95. The system according to claim 94, wherein the pill dispenser includes a microphone and a speaker, wherein the monitoring client transmits audio data played as sound via the speaker and the monitoring client receives audio from the microphone.~~

~~96. A system for dispensing oral medication, the system comprising:~~

~~a pill dispenser having a camera and a microphone; and~~

~~a monitoring client having a camera and microphone,~~

~~wherein the pill dispenser and the monitoring client are configured for two-way audio and visual communications therebetween.~~

~~97. The system according to claim 96, wherein the monitoring client prompts a user for a compliance determination, wherein the compliance determination is logged by at least one of the pill dispenser and the monitoring client.~~

~~98.~~ A method for dispensing a pill, the method comprising:

instructing a pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill;

instructing a first pill-viewing camera to capture a first image of the pill;

determining a presence of the pill within the first image;

instructing the first pill-viewing camera to capture a second image;

determining an absence of the pill within the second image;

instructing an identifying camera to capture a plurality of images including a third image in accordance with a predetermined schedule when a button is pressed;

identifying a user using the third image; and

determining whether a face within the third image is an authorized user.

99. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a body having a plurality of recesses each adapted to receive a pill container; and.

a camera positioned to capture an image of a pill container disposed within a recess.

100. The pill dispenser according to claim 99, further comprising another camera disposed on a periphery of the body.

101. The pill dispenser according to claim 99, further comprising a touch screen configured to provide a user interface.

102. The pill dispenser according to claim 99, further comprising a processor coupled to the camera, wherein the processor is configured to read a label disposed on an inserted pill container inserted into a recess of the plurality of recesses.

103. The pill dispenser according to claim 99, wherein the processor is further configured to determine a parameter including at least one of a dosage value, a refill date, a refill time, characters on the label, time of insertions of the pill container, date of insertion of the pill container, number of pills in the pill container, and a date of filling a prescription using an image of a label on a inserted pill container inserted into a recess of the plurality of recesses.

104. The pill dispenser according to claim 103, wherein the parameter is communicated to a monitoring client.

105. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a housing defining an opening;

a pill-dispensing mechanism disposed within the housing and operatively coupled to the opening;

a pill-dispensing instructor arranged to instruct the pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill;

a receptacle operatively coupled to the housing;

a first pill-viewing camera positioned to capture an image of the receptacle and arranged to capture a first image and a second image;

an identifying camera positioned to capture an image of an area adjacent to the housing and arranged to capture a third image; and

an image analysis unit arranged to determine whether a pill is present within the first image and whether a pill is present within the second image.

106. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a compliance determining unit arranged to determine that compliance has occurred if the first image includes an image of the pill and the second image does not include an image of the pill.

107. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, wherein the identifying camera is arranged to capture the third image a predetermined amount of time after the pill-dispensing instructor instructs the pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill.

108. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a button operatively coupled to the housing, wherein the pill dispenser is configured such that when the button is pressed, the pill-dispensing instructor instructs the pill-dispenser to dispense a pill.

109. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a button operatively coupled to the housing, wherein the pill dispenser is configured such that when the button is pressed the identifying camera captures the third image.

110. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a button operatively coupled to the housing, wherein the pill dispenser is configured such that when the button is pressed the identifying camera captures a plurality of images including the third image in accordance with a predetermined schedule.

111. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a button disposed on the housing;

wherein the image analysis unit is arranged to identify whether at least one face is present in an image captured by the identifying camera; and

wherein the pill dispenser is configured such that when the button is pressed the identifying camera captures a series of images until the image analysis unit identifies the presence of at least one face in a captured image of the series of captured images.

112. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, further comprising a storage medium, wherein the pill dispenser is arranged to store the third image in the storage medium and encrypt the third image within the storage medium.

113. The pill dispenser according to claim 112, wherein the stored third image is encrypted using a public key of a pair of asymmetrical encryption keys.

114. The pill dispenser according to claim 112, further comprising a transmitter arranged to transmit the encrypted third image to a server.

115. The pill dispenser according to claim 105, wherein the image analysis unit is arranged to determine whether a face within the third image is an authorized user; and

wherein the pill dispenser further comprises a transmitter which is arranged to communicate the third image to a server with an indication of whether the face within the third image is authorized.

116. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a housing defining an opening;

a pill-dispensing mechanism disposed within the housing, the pill-dispensing mechanism configured to dispense a pill;

a pill viewing location operatively coupled to the pill-dispensing mechanism;

a first pill-viewing camera positioned to capture an image of the pill viewing location;

a second pill-viewing camera positioned to capture an image of the pill through a transparent window associated with the pill viewing location;

at least one processor in operative communication with the pill-dispensing mechanism and the first pill-viewing camera; and

a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for:

instructing the pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill to the pill viewing area;

instructing the first pill-viewing camera to capture a first image of the pill;

instructing the second pill-viewing camera to capture a second image of the pill; and

identifying the pill using the first and second images.

117. The pill dispenser according to claim 116, wherein the at least one processor identifies the pill using at least one of a color of the pill, a shape of the pill, characters on the pill, and a plurality of colors of the pill as determined using the first and fourth images.

118. The pill dispenser according to claim 116, wherein the pill viewing area is external to the housing.

119. The pill dispenser according to claim 116, wherein the pill viewing area is internal to the housing.

120. The pill dispenser according to claim 119, further including a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for dispensing the pill to a pill holding area outside of the housing.

121. The pill dispenser according to claim 116, further comprising a scale, wherein the at least one processor is in operative communication with the scale and receives a weight

therefrom, wherein the storage medium further comprises processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for identifying the pill based upon, at least in part, an estimated weight of the pill using the scale.

122. The pill dispenser according to claim 121, wherein the at least one processor estimates the weight of the pill by subtracting an estimated weight of the pill holder.

123. The pill dispenser according to claim 121, wherein the at least one processor does not dispense the pill unless the identity of the pill is determined to be appropriate based on information from at least one of an electronic medical record, a drug error reduction system, or a monitoring client.

124. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a housing defining an opening;

a pill viewing location disposed within the housing and operatively coupled to the opening;

a pill-dispensing mechanism disposed within the housing, the pill-dispensing mechanism configured to dispense a pill into the pill viewing location;

a door mechanism associated with the pill viewing location, wherein the door mechanism is configured to hold the pill within the pill viewing location and dispense the pill through the opening;

a pill-viewing camera positioned to capture an image of the pill viewing location;

at least one processor in operative communication with the pill-dispensing mechanism, the pill-viewing camera, and the door mechanism; and

a storage medium for storing processor executable instructions configured for execution by the at least one processor for:

instructing the pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill to the pill viewing area;

instructing the pill-viewing camera to capture an image of the pill;

verifying the pill using the image; and

instructing the door mechanism to dispense the pill from the pill viewing location through the opening after the pill is verified using the image.

70. A method for dispensing a pill, the method comprising:

instructing a pill-dispensing mechanism to dispense a pill;

instructing a first pill-viewing camera to capture a first image of the pill;

determining a presence of the pill within the first image;

instructing the first pill-viewing camera to capture a second image;

determining an absence of the pill within the second image;

instructing an identifying camera to capture a plurality of images including a third image in accordance with a predetermined schedule when a button is pressed;

identifying a user using the third image; and

determining whether a face within the third image is an authorized user.