CLAIMS

1. An apparatus including:

a housing for containing/protecting/storing a plurality of interconnected sachets containing pills/medicaments;

an actuator arrangement mounted within the housing configured to administer/deliver the sachets containing pills/medicaments;

at least one microcontroller unit (MCU) configured to control the actuator arrangement; and

a sensor arrangement, disposed within the housing, configured to detect an edge of a leading one of the sachets and communicate with the MCU to stop the actuator arrangement when the sachets are in a starting position defined by a location of the leading edge relative to the actuator arrangement or the housing.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the sensor arrangement includes a plurality of non-contact sensors.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the actuator arrangement includes a pair of counter-rotating wheels and a motor coupled to at least one of the wheels, wherein the counter-rotating wheels in the pair are biased towards one another in order to grip the interconnected sachets therebetween.

4. The apparatus of claim 3, wherein one wheel in the pair of wheels includes gripping material to grip the interconnected sachets.

5. The apparatus of claim 3 or claim 4, wherein one wheel in the pair of wheels includes deformable material that deforms around the pills/medicaments in the interconnected sachets.

6. The apparatus of any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the wheels are configured to distribute pills/medicaments in the interconnected sachets when the pills/medicaments are mutually stacked in the interconnected sachets.

7. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the MCU is configured to control the actuator arrangement based on a preselected administration/delivery length stored in or accessed by the MCU.

8. The apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the apparatus includes an aperture through which the sachets can be administered/delivered by the actuator arrangement.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 when depending from claim 3, including two pairs of the counter-rotating wheels to direct the interconnected sachets straight towards the aperture.

10. The apparatus of claim 8 or claim 9, wherein the apparatus includes a lockout clamp movable between an open position, which opens the aperture, and a closed position, which closes the aperture to block the interconnected sachets moving through the aperture.

11. A process including:

powering an actuator arrangement to move at least one of a plurality of interconnected sachets stored within a housing towards an aperture in the housing, and/or powering an actuator arrangement to move the plurality of interconnected sachets away from the aperture in the housing;

sensing, with a plurality of sensors, when the plurality of interconnected sachets is in a pre-defined starting position; and

restricting manual access to the interconnected sachets stored within the housing.

12. The process of claim 11 further including activating the actuator arrangement to unlock or release at least one of the interconnected sachets when a sensor detects a pre-defined identifier of a pre-selected person.

13. The process of claim 12 further including allowing tearing/removing, by the person, of the at least one container/package.

14. The process of claim 12 or claim 13 further including, in response to the sensing of the containers/packages being in the pre-defined starting position, locking the housing to restrict the person's access to the plurality of sachets except for the at least one sachet.

15. The process of any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the actuator arrangement includes at least one wheel.