Claims

[Claim 1]

A medicine dispensing apparatus comprising: a medicine storage cassette for storage of a plurality of medicine sheets in a line along a normal-line direction of a surface of the medicine sheet; and a dispensing operation section for dispensing the medicine sheets from the medicine storage cassette; wherein

the medicine storage cassette includes:

a storage section for storage of the medicine sheets;

a dispensing section for dispensing the medicine sheets inside the storage section;

a moving operation section which moves the medicine sheets inside the storage section toward the dispensing section; and

a limiter section which limits a forwardmost one of the medicine sheets stored in the storage section from being dispensed from the dispensing section;

the dispensing operation section includes:

a take-out section which holds and takes out the forwardmost medicine sheet; and

a movement controller which dispenses the forwardmost medicine sheet by moving the take-out section which holds the forwardmost medicine sheet in a direction in which the medicine sheets are moved by the moving operation section and at a faster speed than a speed at which the medicine sheets are moved by the moving operation section; and

the movement controller moves the take-out section which holds the forwardmost medicine sheet, in the direction in which the moving operation section moves the medicine sheets, at a faster speed than a speed at which the moving operation section moves the medicine sheets, after moving the take-out section in an opposite direction from the direction in which the moving operation section moves the medicine sheets.

[Claim 2]

The medicine dispensing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the medicine storage cassette further includes adjustment means for adjusting the speed at which the moving operation section moves the medicine sheets.

[Claim 3]

A medicine dispensing apparatus comprising: a medicine storage cassette for storage of a plurality of medicine sheets in a line along a normal-line direction of a surface of the medicine sheet; and a dispensing operation section for dispensing the

medicine sheets from the medicine storage cassette; wherein

the medicine storage cassette includes:

a storage section for storage of the medicine sheets;

a dispensing section for dispensing the medicine sheets inside the storage section;

a moving operation section which moves the medicine sheets inside the storage section toward the dispensing section; and

a limiter section which limits a forwardmost one of the medicine sheets stored in the storage section from being dispensed from the dispensing section;

the dispensing operation section includes:

a take-out section which holds and takes out the forwardmost medicine sheet; and

a movement controller which dispenses the forwardmost medicine sheet by moving the take-out section which holds the forwardmost medicine sheet in a direction in which the medicine sheets are moved by the moving operation section and at a faster speed faster than a speed at which the medicine sheets are moved by the moving operation section; and

the limiter section is provided by a first limiter section which includes: a contact member which makes contact with an edge of the forwardmost medicine sheet; a support section which movably supports the contact member so that the contact member can ride over the edge of the medicine sheet; and an urge member which urges the contact member for stopping the medicine sheets from a move caused by the moving operation section while allowing the ride-over by the contact member at a time of dispensing.

[Claim 4]

The medicine dispensing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein aside from the first limiter section, a second limiter section is provided for contact with the edge of the forwardmost medicine sheet.

[Claim 5]

The medicine dispensing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the second limiter section is provided by a rotatable roller which makes contact with the edge of the forwardmost medicine sheet.

[Claim 6]

The medicine dispensing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the first limiter section is disposed at a position to make contact with an edge of a longer side of the medicine sheet, whereas the second limiter section is disposed at a position to make

contact with an edge of a shorter side of the medicine sheet.

[Claim 7]

A medicine storage cassette comprising: a storage section for storage of medicine sheets; a dispensing section for dispensing the medicine sheets from the storage section; and a moving operation section for moving the medicine sheets inside the storage section toward the dispensing section; wherein

the dispensing section includes a first limiter section which has: a contact member which makes contact with an edge of a forwardmost medicine sheet; a support section which movably supports the contact member so that the contact member can ride over the edge of the medicine sheet; and an urge member which urges the contact member for stopping the medicine sheets from a move caused by the moving operation section while allowing the ride-over by the contact member at a time of dispensing;

aside from the first limiter section, a second limiter section is provided for contact with the edge of the forwardmost medicine sheet; and

the second limiter section is provided by a rotatable roller which makes contact with the edge of the forwardmost medicine sheet.