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PATENT FULL TEXT AND IMAGE DATABASE

United States Patent

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Micro-computer and printer for printing a prescription slip

Abstract

The present invention is a hand-held micro-computer with an attached printer that receives input from a physician and prints out a legible prescription slip for the physician's signature. The micro-computer has a keypad, display, and memory. The memory stores information about prescription drugs and physicians who have access to the micro-computer. When a physician wants to "write" or prepare a prescription slip, the physician enters a personal identification number, thus gaining access to the micro-computer. The physician then selects a drug to prescribe, either by entering a drug identification number or scrolling through a list of drug names. After the specific drug has been selected, the physician may change the default information for that drug or accept it. Once the information is correct, the physician prints out the prescription slip on the attached printer. The prescription slip contains all the relevant and necessary information for the patient and pharmacists and need only be signed by the physician before it can be filled.

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method of writing a prescription slip, said prescription slip having a drug name, quantity, strength, and dosage, said prescription slip being generated by a micro-computer and printer, said micro-computer having a keypad, a display, and a memory, said memory storing information on a plurality of drugs and physicians, said method comprising the steps of: inputting a physician identification number corresponding to one of said plurality of physicians stored in said memory; selecting an entry from a menu shown on said display of said micro-computer; entering an identification corresponding to a drug, said drug having default characteristics, said default characteristics corresponding to said drug name, said quantity, said strength, and said dosage; and printing said prescription slip from said printer.
2. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying said default characteristics of said drug.
3. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of choosing a refill amount for said drug, said refill amount appearing on said prescription slip after said prescription slip has been printed.
4. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, wherein said inputting step, said selecting step and said entering step are performed by depressing a series of keys on said keypad of said micro-computer.
5. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of choosing whether to allow substitutions for said drug.
6. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, wherein said identification is a drug identification number.

7. The method of writing a prescription slip as recited in claim 1, wherein said identification is said drug name.
8. An apparatus for use in preparing a prescription slip, said apparatus comprising: a micro-computer having memory means for storing information about prescription drugs, said information including names of said prescription drugs, selecting means for said user to select a prescription drug from said memory means; and a printer operatively connected to said micro-computer and responsive to said micro-computer so that said printer prints said prescription slip when said user selects said prescription drug from said memory, said prescription slip containing said name of said prescription drug wherein said apparatus will fit into the palm of the user.
9. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said information contains nominal dosages and strengths for said prescription drugs.
10. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said information contains nominal dosages and strengths for said prescription drugs, and wherein said printer prints said dosage and strength of said prescription drug on said prescription slip.
11. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said information contains nominal dosages and strengths for said prescription drugs, and wherein said selecting means allows the user to change said dosage and said strength of said prescription drug.
12. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said user selects said prescription drug by inputting a drug identification number.
13. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said user selects said prescription drug by selecting said name of said prescription drug from a list of said prescription drugs in said memory means.
14. The apparatus as recited in claim 8, wherein said micro-computer further comprises means for updating said information about said prescription drugs.
15. A system for generating a prescription slip, said system comprising: a computer; at least one micro-computer having communication means for communicating with said computer, said micro-computer having memory means for storing information about prescription drugs, said information including names of said prescription drugs, selecting means for said user to select a prescription drug from said memory means; and a printer operatively connected to said micro-computer and responsive to said micro-computer so that said printer prints said prescription slip when said user selects said prescription drug from said memory, said prescription slip containing said name of said prescription drug.
16. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said communication means enables said information about said prescription drugs and information about physician's to be transferred between said computer and said micro-computer.
17. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said information includes nominal dosages and strengths for said prescription drugs, and wherein said selecting means allows the user to change said dosage and said strength of said prescription drug.
18. The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said printer prints a dosage and strength for said prescription drug, a quantity, and refill amount for said prescription drug, a Drug Enforcement Agency number for a physician, and a location for a physician's signature and patient's name on said prescription slip.