

### Smart bracelets allow patients to carry med records

Web Posted: 02/06/2008 09:48 PM CST

**Wendy Rigby**  
**KENS 5 Eyewitness News**

The newest medical tool is actually a medical record that patients carry with them in the form of a bracelet.

If necessity is the mother of invention, then a need to have all of your medical records in one place has yielded a useful product.

It's called "Citizens Advocating Readiness for an Emergency" or CARE Bands. A smart bracelet provided free to patients enrolled in WellMed's Medicare Advantage plan. The founder and chairman of WellMed, Dr. George Rapier, says the wristband is an idea whose time has come.

"The average Medicare patient takes about seven different medications and has about seven or eight different chronic illnesses. So just trying to remember all that, and particularly if you're in a stressful situation or have to go to a hospital or the emergency room, there's just no way that you can remember that yourself," Rapier said.

The idea is that seniors, like 75-year-old Jerry Still, might be in a situation where they need quick medical help, but can't recall what medications they are on, or when is the last time they had a certain kind of test. The USB post, which can be plugged into any Internet-connected computer, will display the patient's up-to-date medical records in seconds.

For patients, it's a little peace of mind.

"It's amazing how much information they've got on that little bracelet," Still said. "I think it's really good and will help a lot of people and will make them more secure."

WellMed is making the CARE Bands available to 30,000 of its patients over the next year. With its ability to contain important information about drug allergies, lab results and prescriptions, it could be a lifesaver as well as a timesaver, in a critical situation.

"It really is an accurate source of medical information for the patient and their family and for emergency personnel," Rapier said.

The device is also weatherproof and available in a keychain. It was designed and patented by a San Antonio company.

The original article was posted on <http://www.mysanantonio.com/salife/health/stories/MYSA020608.medbracket.KENS.9890ec5d.html>

#### More information

- WellMed Medical Group
- 📺 **KENS video:** Watch medical video