

Two-Tier Dispensary On Trial In U.S.

In a move to reduce dispensing errors, Wal-Mart (U.S.) has developed an experimental two-level pharmacy designed to eliminate interruptions during the dispensing process.

The double-decker design allows one pharmacist and several technicians to fill prescriptions in a distraction-free environment on the upper level, while another pharmacist conducts patient counselling and drug utilization review on the busier lower level.

Although not involved in the two-tier experiment, Wal-Mart Canada will be watching closely to see how well it succeeds, says Doug Thorsley, the company's manager of pharmacy operational services.