

Dallas startup with virtual care device raises \$3 million amid ‘significant’ opportunity

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A Dallas start-up developing a virtual care device for dispensing medicine has landed an investment.

Berkshire Biomedical has completed a \$3 million fund-raising effort, the company said in a [statement](#). It's the first third-party financing effort for the firm.

The lead product under development — what's called the “computerized oral prescription administration” (COPA) system — combines different technologies, including biometric authentication, to give prescription drug delivery options via a hand-held device.

It's under review with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The system is expected to get regulatory clearance in the third quarter of this year, said Thomas Rouse, chairman of the firm, in the statement.

According to a spokesperson, the company will use the investment primarily to advance the commercialization of the system through strategic partnerships and other initiatives. The funds also will be used to support hiring.

“The real market opportunity here is significant,” the spokesperson said. “The COPA System is addressing the intersection of several great needs in the medical ecosystem: connected, virtual care at the point of need, medical adherence and real-time data aggregation and analytics.”

The efforts come when people are more open to technology that assists with remote care, especially as COVID-19 keeps more people at home.

“While the COPA System was designed as a virtual care solution before the pandemic, there is no question that the COVID-19 situation has put a spotlight on the growing need for virtual care solutions,” a spokesperson said in an email in response to questions. “The increased need for virtual care and telehealth over the past year has accelerated its acceptance among physicians, patients and payors.”

The company's product integrates cellular technology for real-time usage data collection, the company said, helping to monitor behavior and make dosage adjustments. It is also enabled with cloud-based data storage and analytics.



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