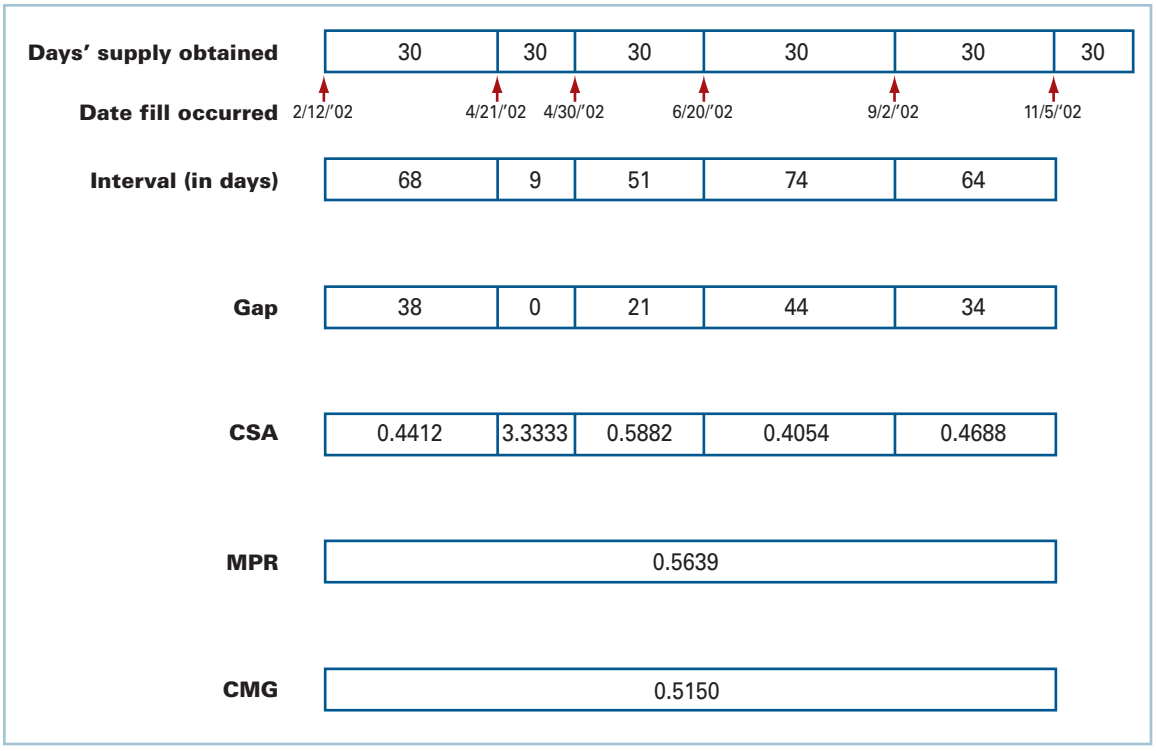
■

eAppendix A. The 8-Item Morisky Medication Adherence Scale

Question	Response Options
1. Do you sometimes forget to take your high blood pressure pills?	Yes/No
2. Over the past 2 weeks, were there any days when you did not take your high blood pressure medicine?	Yes/No
3. Have you ever cut back or stopped taking your medication without telling your doctor because you felt worse when you took it?	Yes/No
4. When you travel or leave home, do you sometimes forget to bring along your medications?	Yes/No
5. Did you take your high blood pressure medicine yesterday?	Yes/No
6. When you feel like your blood pressure is under control, do you sometimes stop taking your medicine?	Yes/No
7. Do you ever feel hassled about sticking to your blood pressure treatment plan?	Yes/No
8. How often do you have difficulty remembering to take all your blood pressure medication?	Never/Almost Never/Sometimes/ Quite Often/Always

Adapted from Morisky et al.[13]

eAppendix B. Example Calculation of Pharmacy Fill Adherence Rates



The top line displays the number of days' supply obtained and the dates filled for a single drug brand for a study participant. The dates listed represent when medication fills occurred. The second line displays the interval (in days) between fills. The third line displays the gaps in medication based on the difference in number of days between pharmacy fills (ie, the interval) and the number of days' supply obtained.

The patient obtained a 30-day medication supply on 2/12/2002. Because the second fill date was 4/21/2002, the interval between the first and second fills was 68 days. This patient had a 30-day supply for the 68-day interval, resulting in a continuous single-interval medication availability (CSA) score of 30 divided by 68 or 0.4412 for this interval. The patient obtained 30 days' supply on the second fill date (4/21/2002), and the interval before the third fill (4/30/2002) was only 9 days, yielding a CSA score of 3.3333 (30/9). This CSA was truncated to 1 as described in the "Methods" section. The CSA scores were calculated for the rest of the intervals using an identical approach. Taking the mean of the 5 individual CSAs, the patient's assigned CSA was 0.5807.

For the period between the first and last fills, the total number of pills obtained was 150 (30 pills at each of 5 fills), and the total interval was 266 days (ie, between February 12 and November 5). Therefore, the medication possession ratio (MPR) was 0.5639 (150/266). The total number of medication gaps was 137 days (38 + 21 + 44 + 34) during the 266-day period, resulting in a continuous multiple-interval medication gap (CMG) of 0.5150 (137/266).