

Medicines During and After Your Hospital Stay

Changing or Starting a Prescription

During your hospital stay you may have a change in your medicines.

Your doctor may have changed one of your regular medicines (dose, time, type), started you on a new medicine, or both.

But it can be hard to understand these changes and what you need to do when you get home. Your health care team members will help you so you know what to do at home.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist any questions such as:

- how to take your medicines
- if the changes made to your medicines in the hospital will continue at home, and for how long
- what side effects to watch for
- if there is a less expensive medicine or a generic form you can use instead (if cost is an issue).

Taking your medicines as prescribed can help you feel better or prevent another hospital stay.



What to Do When You Get Home

Follow-up visit

- Keep the follow-up appointment with your primary care provider after your hospital stay.
 - Ask them questions about your medicines.
 - Tell them if you have any side effects (especially new ones).

Safety

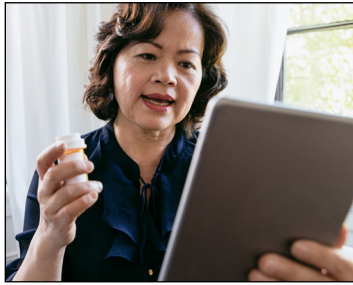
- Talk with your primary care provider or pharmacist if you have any questions about your medicine at any time.
- Have all of your medicines filled at one pharmacy.
- Have at least a 1-week supply of your medicine(s) before you need to order a refill.
- Use a pill box or guide to manage your medicines.
- Tell each of the health care providers you see (including your dentist) which medicines you are taking.



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Taking medicine

- Take your medicine as directed each day.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. If you don't remember to take it until it's time for your next dose, then skip the missed dose and return to your regular dose schedule.



Do not double up on missed doses unless your primary care provider tells you to do so.

- Ask your primary care provider or pharmacist if there are foods or other medicines that may affect your current medicines.
- Talk with your primary care provider or pharmacist if you are thinking about taking any new medicines (including over-the-counter medicine and herbal or natural supplements).
- Find ways to remember when to take your medicines at the same time each day. Write notes, put an alarm on your phone or calendar, or use an app to remind you.

Storing medicine

- Keep **all** medicines out of reach of children and pets.
- Keep all medicines in their original bottles or in a pill box.
- Keep all medicines away from heat, light and humidity. Do not keep medicines in the bathroom or near the kitchen sink.



What Not to Do

- Do not stop taking your medicines unless you have talked with your primary care provider.
- Do not take any more or less than the prescribed dose of any medicine on your own without your primary care provider's directions.
- Do not let your medicines run out. (Call your pharmacy at least 1 week before you need a refill.)
- Do not take medicines prescribed for someone else.
- Do not keep outdated medicine.