

Managing your medicines during and after your hospital stay

Summary Points to Remember

- Having the right information about your medicines is important
- Pharmacists work as part of your healthcare team to help make sure that your medicines are right for you
- **Please ask questions about your medicines at any time during your stay.**

When you come to hospital

A pharmacist will ask you about the medicines that you take at home. This information is important to help your healthcare team to look after you.

We encourage you to bring your medicines to hospital including vitamins and over-the-counter items. Your medicines will be stored securely during your admission and given back to you when you go home.

Let us know:

- If you have had a bad reaction or allergy to any medicines
- If you find it hard to manage your medicines at home
- If you would prefer your carer, a family member or an interpreter to be with you when information about medicines is given
- If you have benefits (for example Medicare, Concession, Repatriation, Safety Net number).

During your hospital stay

A pharmacist will check that your medicines prescribed in hospital are right for you. For example, they will check that they match the medicines you normally take, that the doses are still right for you, and that any new medicines are suitable and safe for you.

A nurse or doctor will give you all the medicine doses that you need to take. **Do not use your medicines from home unless we ask you to**, as you may get a double dose.

Before you go home from hospital

A doctor may write a prescription for medicines you need to take when you get home. A pharmacist will make sure these medicines are right for you.

They will ask you which medicines you need, then arrange supply and bring them to you, either on the ward or in Transit Lounge.

For each medicine, a pharmacist will talk to you about:

- why it is prescribed for you
- how and when to take it
- possible side effects.

They will also explain any changes to medicines you were taking before you came into hospital.

If needed, the pharmacist may pass on details about your medicines to other health professionals such as your local pharmacy.

You will receive a bill to pay for medicines supplied to you from the hospital to take home.

When you get home from hospital

For medicines that you need to keep taking, please see your local doctor for prescriptions before your hospital supply runs out. Your local doctor or pharmacist can answer any medicine questions you may have. If you need to speak to the hospital pharmacist you can call using the phone numbers below during business hours.

Useful website about medicines and medical conditions:

National Prescribing Service www.nps.org.au

Better Health Channel www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

MedicineList+ smartphone app can be downloaded for free from Google play or the App Store (this is useful to keep an up-to-date list of your medicines).

Contact

Your hospital pharmacist is: _____ (name)
from _____ (unit/ward)

Pharmacy Department *City Campus* phone: 9342 7204

Pharmacy Department *Royal Park Campus* phone: 8387 2135

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