

Medication Safety

Medications: DO

- DO ask your pharmacist, nurse, or physician any questions you might have regarding medications,
- Keep your medication list up to date.
- Take your medicine as prescribed by your physician at the prescribed number, at the proper times and for the correct length of time.
- Establish a routine of taking your medications at the same time each day.
- Understand the directions for your medications. For example “four times a day” could mean after meals and at bedtime, or every six hours around the clock. If you are not sure, ask your physician to clarify the directions.
- Get your prescriptions refilled in plenty of time- do not wait until your supply is gone. Please call your pharmacy early in the day if you need to refill your prescription.
- Remember strong pain medications cannot be telephoned to the pharmacy. The prescription must be mailed to the pharmacy or obtained at the doctor’s office. Your pharmacist cannot fill these prescriptions after seven days from the time the prescription was written.
- Understand that non-prescription drugs are medications available without a physician’s prescription. Like other medications, Non-prescription drugs should be taken carefully.
- Let the physician and pharmacist know all medications you are taking, including all over the counter pills, vitamins and herbs. This will minimize the risk of taking duplicate medications or unwanted interactions between certain drugs.
- If the medication you receive is different in any way from what you expect, discuss it with your pharmacist, nurse or physician.
- Promptly report to your physician any side effects or unusual reactions to the medication.
- Store all your medications in their original containers, away from moisture and heat. Do not store medication in a bathroom medicine cabinet subjected to steam.
- Keep all medicine out of reach of children and confused adults.
- If you vomit after taking your medication, and you can see the complete pill in the vomit, you may retake the medications after the nausea/ vomiting subsides.

Medication: DO NOT

- DO NOT take more of your medication than ordered without first checking with your physician.
- DO NOT take a friend or relative’s medication if your supply is depleted. Medication may appear the same but be different dosage.

- DO NOT give your medication to friends. What is good for you might be harmful to them.
- DO NOT take antacids within one hour of other medications. It could impair the absorption of those medications.

What are the danger signals?

Call your physician or nurse if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- Have any side effects or unusual reactions to the medication.
- Have uncontrolled pain, nausea, vomiting or other symptoms.
- Miss a dose of medication.
- Are too nauseated to take your medication.