

Medication safety checklist

Q. Do you have a list of the medications you are taking now?

A current medication list helps you remember the names of your medications and how you are supposed to take them. For your own safety, carry a current list of your medications with you at all times.

Everyone on your health care team should know what medications have been prescribed for you and what you take and use without a prescription. When you visit your doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacists show your list to them. It is important to review your list with your health care team at every visit.

Make a list of what you are taking now.

- List of all the medications you are taking and using now that your doctors have prescribed for you.
- List of all the medications and vitamins you take without a prescription. List eye drops or ear drops, skin creams or natural herbs if you are using them.
- List of all the home remedies you use.

Q. Are you taking any medications or pain medications that some of your doctors do not know you are taking?

STOP If so, this might not be safe.

Some medications do not work as well as they should when you take them with other medications, drugs or home remedies.

Your doctors need to review your medication list to be sure you are taking your medications safely.

Q. Are you taking all of your prescribed medicines at the correct times?

Yes No

Q. Do your doctors know if you stopped taking a medication?

Yes No

Q. Do your doctors know when and why you stopped taking a medicine?

Yes No

CAUTION If you answered “no” to any of these questions, then it’s time to talk to your doctor about any changes or problems you may have with taking your medications.

Talk to your doctor about all your medications.

It is important to tell your doctor:

- When you do not understand something he or she says to you
- When you do not understand directions
- How you take your medicine
- About any problems you have taking your medicine
- If you cannot open the medication package or take the lid off the medicine bottle
- If you cannot take your medicine
- If you cannot afford your medicine
- Where you get your medicine—from a drug store, in the mail, from the Internet or other places

Ask questions about your medicine.

- Ask what to do if you have side effects
- Ask if this is the same medicine you take at home
- Ask if this medicine is replacing a medicine you have been taking
- Ask why the medicine has a different name
- Ask why the medicine looks different
- Ask how to take your medicine
- Ask if you are taking your medicine correctly
- Ask what to do if you forget to take your medication(s)
- Ask what to do if you take the wrong dose of your medication(s)
- Ask for liquid medicine if you cannot swallow your pills