

Do you have questions about your medicines?

This leaflet discusses the different types of questions you may have about your medicines during your hospital stay.

When you are in hospital, the doctors may make some changes to your usual medicines, for example, the dose may be changed, or you may start taking new medicines. With such changes, it is natural to have some questions or concerns about your medicines.

You may also have questions about your usual medicines even if no changes have been made to them. Please feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with the team looking after you.

What sort of questions can I ask?

The next page lists some of the questions that other patients have asked about their medicines.

Reading through these may help you to think about your own medicines, and what you may want to ask. You may also think of some other questions that are not listed here.

Questions about what your medicines are and what they do:

- What is my medicine for?
- What does the medicine do?
- How does it work?
- How long will it take for my medicine to start working?
- How can I tell if it is working?

Questions about using your medicines:

- How should I take my medicine?
- How long will I need to take it for?
- What should I do if I forget to take a dose?
- How do I get a further supply?

Questions about side effects:

- Does the medicine have any side effects?
- How common are the side effects?
- What should I do if I experience side effects?

Questions about how medicines may affect your everyday life:

- Can I drink alcohol while taking this medicine?
- Is my new medicine safe to use with my other medicines or supplements?
- Will the medicine make me feel drowsy?
- Will the medicine affect my sex life?

Who do I ask if I have any questions?

Most members of the team looking after you (doctors, nurses) should be able to answer these questions. However, if you want to speak to your pharmacist, please let your nurse know.

You may find it helpful to look through the list of questions before the pharmacist's next visit. There is some space on page 5 for you to write down any extra questions that you may have.

Please let your pharmacist know if you would prefer to have a member of your family with you when you speak to them.

What do I do if I have any questions about my medicines when I get home?

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines after you leave hospital, please call our Pharmacy Medicines Helpline.

**Pharmacy Medicines
Helpline**

020 7188 8748

9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

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