

Questions about your medicines?



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

Do you have questions about your medicines?

When you are in hospital, the doctors may make some changes to your usual medicines. For example, the dose (amount you take) may be changed, or you may start taking new medicines. With 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?

Below are 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 questions that are not listed here.

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?

Using your medicines

- How often should I take my medicine?
- Do I have to take it **with** or **away from** food?
- How long will I need to take it for?
- What should I do if I forget to take a dose?
- How do I get more of my medicine?

Are there any side effects

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

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. 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 (contact details at the end of this leaflet).

Questions or concerns I have about my medicines

Contact us

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please call our pharmacy medicines helpline,

t: 020 7188 8748, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

For more leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints)

e: complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

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