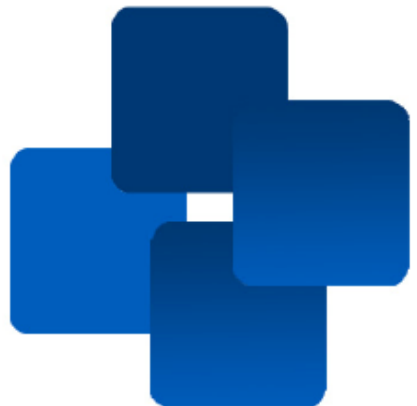


Patient Information

Your Hospital Stay and Your Medicines

Pharmacy Department



Your hospital stay and your medicines

This leaflet aims to explain the hospital policy on medicines following admission to hospital, during your stay and at discharge.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor, nurse or pharmacist caring for you. Your ward pharmacist should leave their details and the times they visit the ward on the next page of this booklet.

A page for you to write any questions about your medicines has been included in the middle of this booklet. Please use this as a reminder of any questions you may want to ask the doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Bring your medicines with you from home

If you are going in to hospital it is very important that you take all your current medicines along with you in their original containers. This includes tablets, liquid medicines, patches, creams, inhalers, eye/ear drops, pharmacy bought medicines, supplements, and herbal medicines.

The benefits to you by using your own medicines in hospital:

- It will help the doctors to prescribe the correct medicines for you.
- You will receive the correct medicines straight away.
- You will not miss any doses and/or will avoid delay in treatment.
- Your discharge time will be reduced.

Your details:

Name:

Date of birth:

Ward:

Your ward pharmacist/ time of visits on ward:

Your regular pharmacy:

Notes

If you have any concerns about your medicines after leaving hospital, please contact our

- **Dedicated Patient Helpline - Telephone 01438 286150**
Monday to Friday, 2pm - 4pm or
e-mail: medinfo.enhtr@nhs.net for a response the next working day.
- **Lister Pharmacy Dispensary - Telephone 01438 285510**
- You may also contact your **GP** or **local pharmacist** for advice.

What if I was unable to bring my medicines into hospital?

Don't worry. If possible ask a relative or friend to bring your medicines into hospital when they come and visit. If this is not possible we will contact your relative or friend for you on your behalf.

Alternatively, we will arrange to supply the medication for you. Sometimes this may mean making some changes, especially if the hospital does not normally stock some of your medicines.

What if the hospital does not stock my medicines?

Although the hospital keeps a wide range of medicines, it is not possible to keep all the medicines available in the country. By bringing in your own medicines to hospital, you can continue on the same preparation, even if the hospital does not keep it.

If you cannot bring such medicines into hospital, it may be necessary to switch you to an alternative. If there is no alternative the hospital can order it especially for you, but this may take a few days to get from our supplier.

What will happen to my medicines in hospital?

Any medicines you bring into hospital are your own property. They will be stored securely on the ward, usually in a **locked medicine cabinet beside your bed**. If you change wards during your stay, your medicines will be moved with you. The medicines you bring into hospital will be given back to you before you leave hospital. If your medicines change, the medicines you no longer use can be destroyed by the hospital with your permission.

How will I know about changes to my medicines?

We will always try to tell you about any changes or additions to your medicines and we encourage you to check any changes to your medicines with your pharmacist, nurse or doctor.

With such changes you may have some questions or concerns about your medicines. A list of common questions you might want to ask is included in this booklet.

When you leave hospital your **discharge letter** will provide **written information** about any changes to your medicines and a copy will be sent to your GP so they can update your medical records.

What are the possible side effects with my new medicines?

When starting a new medicine you may be worried about possible **side effects** or after starting a new medicine in hospital you may feel you are experiencing side effects. If you do, please ask to speak to your pharmacist or doctor so we can address any of these concerns **before** you leave hospital.

A list of possible side effects is included in the information leaflet supplied in the box with your medicines. It is important to remember that these are the **possible** side effects and not everyone will get them. Even a side effect listed as common would be expected to affect less than 1 in 10 people taking the medication and in most cases side effects will improve or go away after a short period of time as your body adjusts to the new medicine.

Have any of my medicines been stopped or doses changed whilst in hospital?

Details about any medicines stopped during your stay will be included on the **discharge letter** given to you when you leave hospital.

You can also ask your pharmacist to write down below any medicines that have been stopped or changed while you were in hospital:

Medicines which have stopped:

Medicines where the dose has increased or decreased:

If you have any medicines which have been stopped at home, please take them to your local pharmacy for destruction.

This page provides a list of questions that other patients have asked about their medicines that you may find useful:

Questions about what your medicines are for:

- What is the medicine called?
- What is my medicine for?
- How can I tell that the medicine is working?

Questions about using your medicines:

- How long will I need to take my medicines?
- What's the best way to take my medicines?
- What should I do if I forget a dose?

Questions about side effects:

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

General questions:

- Can I drink alcohol while taking this medicine?
- Can I take this medicine with my other medication?
- Can I drive or operate machinery while taking this medicine?

Write down any questions you would like to ask about your medicines or their potential side effects:

Medicine	Questions
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Most members of staff should be able to answer these questions. However, if you have specific concerns about medicines, please ask to speak to your ward pharmacist.

Will I be supplied with more medicines when I leave hospital?

We will not routinely re-supply regular long-term medicines that are prescribed by your General Practitioner (GP) if it has not been changed in hospital. The pharmacist will always ensure that you have at least two weeks supply of medication available to you when you go home.

The hospital will supply you with:

- any new medicines such as antibiotics;
- any medicines that have changed, for example, if the dose has been increased.

Please make sure that you have a supply of painkillers such as paracetamol and ibuprofen at home ready for your discharge if necessary.

How do I obtain more medicines after leaving hospital?

You will receive a copy of your discharge letter which you can take to your GP. This will describe any changes to your medication. Your GP will also be sent a copy of the letter. Your GP will then be able to issue a prescription which can be dispensed at your local community pharmacy.

Remember that your GP may need 48 hours to issue the prescription and may also wish to see you.

Help with medicines after leaving hospital

Prescribed a new medicine?

If you are prescribed a new medicine while you are in hospital, you may be suitable to use the **New Medicine Service** offered by your local (community) pharmacy. This is a free NHS service to help you understand your condition and get the most out of your new medicine. Your local pharmacist will ask you questions about how you are getting on with your new medicine, identify any problems and give you information and support.

Changes to your current medicines?

If your medicines are changed while you are in hospital, you are eligible to have a **Discharge Medicines Use Review (MUR)** at your local pharmacy. This is a free NHS service to help you find out more about the medicines you are taking, identify any problems you may have with your medicines and so improve their effectiveness.

Both services are a confidential conversation and will be provided in a private area within the pharmacy or, if you prefer, you could choose to have the discussion over the telephone.

For more information about these services, please ask your ward pharmacist or medicines management technician, alternatively contact your local pharmacy on discharge from hospital.

Please use this space to write down any other questions you may like to ask:

Summary of help with your medication

- **Dedicated Patient Helpline - Telephone 01438 286150**
Monday to Friday, 2pm - 4pm or
e-mail: medinfo.enhtr@nhs.net for response next working day.
- **Lister Pharmacy Dispensary - Telephone 01438 285510**
- You may also contact your **GP** or **local pharmacist** for advice.

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Matthew Davies
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You can request this information in a different format or another language.