

Tips for medicine safety

- Your wrist label is your identification in hospital. Check your wrist label to make sure the information is correct
- If you are allergic to any medicine or food, inform staff so it can be recorded
- Look at the medicine you are being given. If it doesn't look like what you normally take, ask the clinical staff to explain before you take it
- Staff should check your wrist label and the medicine before you are given any medicines
- If you are being given medicine through a drip (IV) tell the nurse if you are worried about it or if it feels sore or painful
- If you are not feeling well or feel unable to speak for yourself you can ask your family/whanau to ask questions about your medicines for you

What is Waitemata District Health Board doing to improve medicine safety?

- The pharmacists, doctors and nurses work together to give you the best medicines for you
- We aim to make sure you know about, and are encouraged to ask any questions about your medicines by discussing these with you
- We inform your GP of any new medicines or changes that have been made
- We have an incident reporting process when any mistakes are made so we can constantly make improvements
- Information sheets are available for some medicines and conditions. Some of these are translated into other languages
- There is an interpreter service if English is not your first language.

**Please telephone the Inpatient Pharmacy Department if you have any questions:
486 8920 ext. 2626**



*Produced by the Waitemata DHB Quality Use of Medicines team.
Thanks to Waikato and Auckland DHBs for their assistance in the preparation of this brochure.*

0768-01-016 (Review date: August 2011)

Our core values | Customer Focus 'eye' | Integrity 'sunrise' | Compassion 'bird' | Respect 'koru' | Openness 'flower'

KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE WITH YOUR MEDICINE

- Be actively involved in your healthcare
- Understand your medicines
- Ask questions





How you can help

Our clinical staff aim to give you the safest care available. You are the best person to make sure your medicine gives you the greatest benefit with the least risk to you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please ask.



When you come into hospital

Please bring all of the medicines you are currently taking and an up-to-date list so the clinical staff know exactly what you take at home. This will make it easier for doctors to make any changes if needed.

Remember to bring:

- all medicines that your doctor has prescribed
- medicines bought at a supermarket, health shop, pharmacy or over the internet
- herbal medicines, vitamins or natural remedies

If you have a Yellow Card or Care Plus booklet, please bring this with you

Waitemata
Hospital
Te Wharau Anahau

Please bring this when you go to....

- your doctor
- your pharmacy
- your specialist(s)
- outpatient clinics & hospital (please bring all your medications too)
- emergency clinics
- your dentist

and when you travel

Name: _____

Allergies: _____

GP's name: _____

Usual Pharmacy: _____

Date of card: _____

Keep your card up-to-date. If your medications or doses change don't forget to up-date your card.

Card _____ of _____

My Medications

Allergies / Reactions

If you know you have an allergy or have had a bad reaction to any medicine or food then:

- tell the clinical staff as soon as possible
- write this on your medicine list
- ask staff about a MedicAlert® Bracelet

During your hospital stay

Your medicines will be stored safely on the ward in a green medication bag with your name on it. We will let you know which medicines you may keep at your bedside. The hospital pharmacist will try to visit and discuss your medicines with you. Feel free to ask about any new medicines that are being given to you.

If you are unhappy about your medicines, ask to speak to the nurse in charge.



Going home

The clinical staff will explain your medicines with you before you leave. They will go through your green bag with you and talk about any new medicines you might need.

Make sure you understand:

- what medicines you take and why
- any special instructions

A Yellow Card can be filled in with a list of your medicines if you require one. They are also available from your GP or community pharmacy.

If you no longer need some of your own medicines, these will be safely disposed of for you.