

Find out how your local community pharmacy (chemist) can help

Your community pharmacy (chemist) will be able to give you advice and support after you leave hospital.

Other community services

Ask your pharmacist or GP about other services such as:

- Healthy living advice
- Advice on treating minor illnesses
- Help with stopping smoking
- NHS health checks.

Remember: Help your care team to care for you by bringing in all your medicines

Patient Information

Bringing in and using your own medicines whilst in hospital



Bringing in and using your own medicines whilst in hospital

The ward you will be staying on uses a "Pharmacy Ward-based Medicines Management" dispensing system. This means that any medication you require will be stored in a bedside locker and given to you from there by the nurses, instead of from a central drug trolley. It also means that any prescribed medicines you bring with you may be stored in the bedside locker and used during your stay.

Why?

- By having your medicines with you it will ensure hospital staff understand what medicines you have been taking so they can prescribe or amend medication appropriately.
- It will also avoid any missed doses and ensure continuity of care between your GP and hospital treatment.

What do we need you to do?

Bring ALL your medication that you have at home into hospital with you. This includes:

- Tablets and capsules
- Liquids
- Cream/ointments
- Inhalers
- Insulin
- Any other items from your family doctor
- Any items you purchased (e.g. vitamins, painkillers, herbal remedies, nicotine patches etc.)
- If any medication is left at home please ask a relative to bring them in for you.

What will happen when I arrive on the ward?

- On admission the nurses will take your medicines from you and put them in the bedside locker by your bed.
- The doctor will decide which medicines they need to prescribe for you, which will be recorded.
- A member of the hospital pharmacy team will visit you to discuss your medicines to see if they are still suitable for you to use during your hospital stay.
- If you do not want to use your medicines in this way then please tell one of the nurses or the pharmacist.

What will happen to the medicines I have brought with me?

- If you need to continue taking the same medication it will be left in your bedside locker for your use during your stay.
- If any of the doses have changed, the medication will be re-labelled with the correct dose and returned to your locker ready for you to take home on discharge.
- A member of the hospital pharmacy team will be available to offer you information and advice on your medicines e.g. side effects.
- Anything that is newly prescribed for you to continue at home will be dispensed by the hospital pharmacy with instructions for use and stored in the bedside locker along with your own medicines.

What happens to my own medicines if they are stopped or changed?

If any medicines you brought from home are stopped or changed whilst you are in hospital, we will dispose of them safely for you.

What if I run out of my own medication whilst in hospital?

We will always make sure that you have the medication you need during your hospital stay. When you are discharged you may have sufficient medicine for up to 14 days, which will be labelled with instructions for use. (shorter courses may be supplied where appropriate).

What happens when it is time for me to go home?

One of the pharmacy team will come and see you on the ward. They will check your discharge letter and discuss any new medicines or changes with you before you leave.

You will take the medicines that you have been using on the ward, meaning that you should be able to leave more quickly.

If there are last minute changes to your medication on the day you go home the prescription may have to be dispensed by the hospital pharmacy. This could mean you will have to wait a little longer before you can go home, but this will be communicated to you at the time.

Remember to see your GP for further supplies of any medication within 10 days of leaving hospital.

If you have any questions about your discharge medication, please call the **MEDICINES HELPLINE Mon-Fri 9am-5pm on 0121 424 4682.**