

If you have been given medication

You have been given this information sheet because you have been prescribed medication during your time in the Emergency Department. **Please make sure you read this information sheet before leaving the hospital.**

It is important that you know:

1. Why you are taking medication
2. How you should take your medication
3. How long you should take your medication for

Most medication has a detailed sheet inside the packaging it comes in. This information is provided by the manufacturer of the medication and usually tells you the following:

1. What the medication is used for
2. Whether it should be taken with or without food
3. When not to take the medication
4. Possible side effects and what to do if you are concerned
5. How the medication should be stored

In addition, instructions on how and when to take the medication are usually printed on the front of the packaging (usually on a label). This information should also tell you how much of the medication to take (e.g. two tablets) and how often (e.g. twice a day). **If you are unsure about any of this, please talk to your doctor, nurse or a member of the pharmacy team before leaving the hospital.**

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Know Your Medication The Five Point Checklist

- 1. Do you understand the reasons why you have been given this medication?**
- 2. Do you know which medication side effects to watch out for?**
- 3. Do you know how to take your medication for maximum benefit?**
- 4. Have you told your doctor or nurse if you are already taking other medication?**
- 5. Do you have all the information you need to take your medication correctly and safely?**

Can you answer 'yes' to all these questions? If not, please talk to your doctor, nurse before you go home. Between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, you can also talk to a member of the pharmacy team.

Staff will be very happy to help you, so please ask if you need more information.

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