

medicines and how to store them safely. The hospital will dispose of any medicines that you no longer require.

## How will I get more supplies of my medicines?

On discharge you will be given any medication you require. Usually, a discharge note will be electronically sent to your GP practice telling them which medicines you are now taking. In some cases, however, this is not possible and you will be asked if you (or someone else) can pass this information on. Take this to your GP practice as soon as possible so that your records can be updated and a prescription obtained when you need some more medication.

It is also important to let your community pharmacist know if any medication has changed so they can update your medication details at the pharmacy. They will be able to advise you about any repeat medication that you no longer need, provide a **Medicines Use Review** and could offer the **New Medicine Service** for suitable medication. These are free NHS services to help you understand the medicines you are taking, pick up any problems you are having with them and improve their effectiveness. It is a confidential conversation with your community pharmacist and will be provided in a private area of the pharmacy or, in some cases, via telephone.

## Checklist (before discharge):

- Have you enough supply of all your medicines?
- Do you understand what they are for and how to take or use them?
- Do you have a copy of the discharge note for you to keep? (You may also be asked to take a copy to your GP).
- Have you sufficient supplies of bandages, dressings and appliances?
- Have you a follow up appointment?

### Important

Regular medication reviews are needed to check whether the medicines you are taking are still the best for you. If you haven't been to your GP within the last year to have your medications reviewed, please make an appointment at your GP surgery.



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## Going into hospital

Help yourself get the most from your medicines

### Information for patients Pharmacy



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Your hospital healthcare team (doctor, nurse or pharmacist) need to know what medicines you are taking, including any medicines that you have bought for yourself. This will help us provide the best care for you.

### What medicines should I bring with me?

- All prescription medicines
- Creams or ointments for your skin
- Eye drops or eye ointments
- Inhalers
- Contraceptive pills
- Patches
- Suppositories or pessaries
- Herbal remedies / vitamins
- Injections
- Blood glucose meter and testing strips
- Insulin pens and needles

Please bring them in their original containers if possible.

When you are admitted to hospital, we will ask what medicines you are taking. Also, let us know about medication you have stopped taking that is still on the list from your GP.

### Why do the hospital staff need to know what medicines I'm taking?

While you are in hospital, it is important that you receive the right medicine, in the right dose at the right time.

It is vital that you tell us about all the medicines you are taking. Sometimes the wrong medicine or combination of medicines can make you ill.

If you are allergic or sensitive to any medicines it is essential that you let us know. We can then make sure that you don't receive that medicine during your stay.

### What will happen to my medicines while I am in hospital?

Your medicines will be locked away in a cupboard (at your bedside on most wards) and you may be able to use them on the ward during your stay with your agreement. As your medicines are your property, they should be given back to you on discharge, unless they have changed.

### During your stay in hospital:

There may be a member of the pharmacy team that visits your ward who will be able to give you information and advice about your medicines.

Your healthcare team work together to ensure that you receive the best medicines for you. You must **not** take any other medicines without first letting us know.

### Will my medicines change during my stay in hospital?

We may need to change some of your medicines whilst you are in hospital. If this happens we will discuss any changes with you.

### Why do my medicines look different?

The hospital may keep a different brand or strength of the medicine you are used to. Please be aware that this may change again when you get your next medicines from your GP. If you have any worries please don't hesitate to speak to us.

### On discharge from hospital:

Someone from your healthcare team will discuss your discharge medicines with you. You should be provided with at least **two** weeks' supply or the nearest suitable pack size. This may include supplies of the medication that you brought into hospital with you. If the hospital stay is less than 2 days we may just provide new medicines. You should be told how to take your