

What you need to know about your medicines

When you arrive at the hospital

If you are going into hospital, you can help the hospital staff to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks associated with your medicines. Your hospital doctor, nurse and pharmacist need to know what medicines you are taking. Staff also need to know about any recent changes to your medicines.

Why is it essential to MATCH UP your medicines?

MATCHING UP your medicines at home compared to that prescribed in hospital can prevent unintentional changes to your medicines during hospital admissions. These changes can prolong your stay in hospital, or even cause you harm. It also helps to work out any changes that have been made during admission, so a discharge medicine list can be provided for you and your GP.



How can you help?

When you go into hospital, please take your up-to-date medicine list and all your medicines, including their original labelled containers where possible. Your community pharmacist or General Practitioner can help you to make this list. Your medicine list should include all your medicines, including medicines from pharmacies, supermarkets, health food shops, and alternative therapists. For example:

- prescription medicines
- vitamins and minerals
- over-the-counter medicines
- natural or herbal remedies (sometimes called complementary or alternative medicines)
- creams or ointments
- eye drops and eye ointments
- inhalers and sprays
- patches
- pessaries or suppositories
- injections, including vaccinations

Allergies & sensitivities

You may be allergic, sensitive, or have had a bad reaction to something in the past. Please tell all your health care providers if you have had any such reactions. This is very important to prevent a reaction happening again.



Storage & use of your medicines during your hospital stay

During your hospital stay, we ask that we keep your medicines in hospital with you, so that hospital staff can refer to them. We may also need to use your medicines during your stay. Your medicines will be locked in your bedside drawer for safekeeping. Certain medicines may also need to be locked in the ward safe or kept in the fridge. You will have your medicines returned to you on discharge wherever safe to do so, and the pharmacist will go through changes to your medicines with you.

Your nurses are responsible for all of the medicine doses you receive during your stay, and each dose must be accounted for, witnessed, and signed for. This is to make sure we have an accurate record of what medicines you have taken, and that we can make decisions about your care based on this information. **Please do not give yourself any medicines during your stay, unless advised to do so by your nurse.** If you feel you require any extra medicines, such as pain relief or inhalers, please talk to your nurse who will organise this for you.

When you go home

Your hospital pharmacist will discuss what medicines you need to take with you when you leave the hospital and arrange supply where necessary. Please let your hospital pharmacist know if you are running low on supply at home. Please be aware that while medications during your admission are supplied free-of-charge, charges apply to discharge medications. These charges are similar to what you would pay at your local pharmacy.

You will receive a discharge medicine list when you leave the hospital, as well as a copy of this list for your General Practitioner. Please go through this list again once you get home and contact the hospital pharmacy or your local health care providers if you have any questions.

Pharmacy Medication Review Clinics

During your stay, you may be referred to one of our Pharmacy Medication Review Clinics for follow-up after you have been discharged home. This is an opportunity for a pharmacist to conduct a medicine review, answer any medicine questions you may have, and ensure medicine discharge plans have been received by your General Practitioner.

If you, or anyone else you know, would like to discuss your medicines in greater detail, please contact 3883 7465 to arrange an appointment with our Medication Review Clinic service, or ask your hospital pharmacist for more information.

For further information, please call the Redcliffe Hospital Pharmacy Department on (07) 3883 7782.

This information leaflet has been compiled by the Redcliffe Hospital Pharmacy, with thanks to the Redland Hospital Pharmacy, the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, and the Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia.



2. Partnering
with
Consumers



4. Medication
Safety