

Patient Education



Medication Safety

At WPSHC we would like to give you patient-centred care and keep you safe. When we know what medications you take at home, we can compare them to your medications in the hospital.

What is “Medication Safety”?

Medication safety is taking the right medication, at the right time and in the right way.

The patients and the health care team can make sure that medications are used safely to prevent any medication errors.

We CARE and want to:

- Improve your amount of care.
- Make sure you get the correct medications during hospital stay.
- Prevent errors from incorrect medication information.

Medication Reconciliation (Making sure you get the right medications)

“Medication Reconciliation” is when we compare the list of medications that you take at home with the medications that are ordered during your hospital stay. Medication Reconciliation helps to make sure that you continue to receive the right medications at the hospital.

It is important that each patient brings a complete and correct list of medications that they use at home. You can also bring in all medications.

Tell your health care team about all the medications you take, including:

- Prescription medication (including inhalers/puffers).
- Over-the-counter (i.e. Aspirin, Tylenol).
- Herbal and natural health products.
- Alcohol and any other recreational drugs (i.e. marijuana...).

YOUR role in Medication Safety

- Update your medication list regularly. Write down any changes made by you or made by your doctor.
- Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist about how to manage your home medications in the hospital.
- Tell your nurse if you think that you missed a dose of a home medication.

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- Talk to one of your health care team members before taking any medications that you brought from home (including over-the-counter and herbals.)
- Before you leave the hospital, understand why and how to take all new medications that you started while in hospital.
- Use one pharmacy – this is so that one pharmacy has all of your medication information.

Create a Medication List

- It is best to write your medication list into a table or chart.
- You can find a handout in the Patient Education section on the West Parry Sound Health Centre website titled **“My Medication List – Print and Fill out”** or by asking your WPSHC health care team.
- Fill out this page and bring it each time you visit a doctor, pharmacist or at each health care visit.

The form is titled "My Medication List - Print and Fill out" and includes a header with the patient's name and date of birth. It has sections for "My Emergency Contact" and "My Pharmacy Contact". Below these is a table with columns: "Medication Name (as written on label)", "Dose", "Frequency", "Purpose", "Date Started", "Date Stopped", and "Other Notes". The table has multiple rows for listing medications.

- **Carry your list with you. Tell your family or caregiver about your list and where they can find it.**

✓ Reminders

Please:

- Bring all of the medication you are taking at home, even over the counter herbal or inhalers/puffers, and give them to your nurse.
- Give your health care team your pharmacy contact information.
- Review all of your medications while in hospital with a nurse, doctor, or pharmacist.
- Update your list when changes are made. Cross off drugs you are no longer taking and add new drugs you do take. Record the date when changes happen.
- Ask questions about your medications.
- Before you leave the hospital, talk to a health care team member and understand why and how to take all of your medications.

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