

Medicine List

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Med List?

A form to list all the medicines that you take, including prescription, herbals, over-the-counter and vitamins. Your doctor would like you to bring this list to ALL doctor visits, ALL hospital visits and also when you go in for tests or visit other healthcare providers.

Why do I need a Med List?

There are many reasons, all of which pertain to patient safety. What if you were in an accident and taken to the emergency room. Would you be able to tell the doctors which medicines you use? Healthcare staff are beginning to ask patients for a **Med List**. Always keep the **Med List** with you so it would be available in an emergency or a routine doctor visit. Many people take several medicines daily and it can be very difficult to remember the medicine name and dose.

Why has this become necessary?

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, about one-half of all prescriptions are taken incorrectly. There is a nationwide movement to improve patient safety and to involve the patient as a member of the healthcare team. Hospitals and clinics are educating patients to carry a **Med List**.

I have been seeing the same doctor for many years; the doctor already has a record of what I am taking. Why do I need to carry a Med List?

Patients often take non-prescription medicines and forget to tell the doctor. Sometimes patients have more than one doctor that they may be seeing for different problems and both doctors may be prescribing medicines. Also, for many different reasons, patients may not actually take their medicines as the doctor ordered.

How do I use the Med List?

First, check your supply of medicines. Remove all old or expired medicines from your supply. Next, complete the **Med List** and keep it up to date. Each time you visit your doctor, hospital, or other healthcare provider, share the **Med List** with them. When your doctor changes, stops, or adds a medicine, the list should be updated.

How will this Med List help me?

By keeping an up-to-date list of all of your medicines that you can give to your doctor, you can make it a safer experience by being involved and informed about your treatment.

How does the Med List work?

It helps reduce medicine errors by promoting communication between patients and their caregivers. Patients keep the list up-to-date by presenting it to their doctors and hospital caregivers at each visit. The healthcare staff will add the new information to your medical record to make sure your medicine list is up to date.

When you are discharged from the hospital, someone will talk with you about WHICH MEDICINES TO TAKE AND WHICH MEDICINES TO STOP TAKING. Since changes are often made after a hospital stay, a new form should be filled out. When you return to your doctor, take your new form with you. This will keep everyone up-to-date on your medicines.