

A Guide to Medication Safety at Kemptville District Hospital (KDH)

Information for Patients and Families

At Kemptville District Hospital (KDH), patient safety is our number one priority. This brochure explains the systems we have in place to help us treat you safely with medications (drugs). We would like you and your family to be active members of your health care team, so the brochure also includes tips on what you can do to help us.

How does KDH promote medication safety?

- Before we give medications to patients, our pharmacist and nurses make sure the medications are correct in every way.

Giving you your medication safely means ensuring the following:

- Right patient
 - Right medication
 - Right amount
 - Right time
 - Right way of taking the medication
- Prescriptions (medications that we order) are those that research shows are good for our patients.
 - KDH always looks at new ways to make sure that the hospital's medication system is safe.

This information is to be used for informational purposes only and is not intended as substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.



- We ask our patients to bring all their medications, or a list of all their medications, each time they visit the hospital. This ensures we do not give a patient a new medication that is not safe to take with any existing medication.
- We will tell you if a medication error occurs during your treatment.

What can you do to help?

When you come to the hospital

- **Bring all your medications (in their original containers if possible) and a list of your medications each time you visit the hospital.** We need to know what you are taking, including prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, herbals and vitamins. Once we have checked the medications, we will give them back to you so that your family can take them home. While you are in the hospital, **do not** continue to take your home medications unless your doctor tells you to do so.
- **If you have allergies or react to certain medications, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.** This will help you avoid getting a medication that can harm you.

While you are at the hospital

- **Your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will give you the follow information about your medications:**
 1. What the medication is for.
 2. What the medication is called.
 3. Any side effects to watch for.
 4. What to do if you get side effects.
 5. Whether the medications replace other drugs that you were taking at home and, if so, why the changes have been made.
 6. When you should take each medication and for how long.
 7. What food, drink or activities you should avoid when taking the medication.



If you do not receive this information, please ask us.

- If you think you are missing a medication or are not sure why a new medication has been started, please ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- **If for any reason you are concerned, you have the right to refuse a medication.**

When you pick up your medications from the retail drug store pharmacy

- **Make sure you understand what's written on the medication label.** Some directions are hard to understand. For example, ask your pharmacist if "4 doses daily" means you should take a dose every 6 hours around the clock, or just during the daytime.
- **Ask your pharmacist about how you should measure your medicine.** For example, with liquid medication, a household teaspoon does not hold a true teaspoon (5mL) of liquid. Ask your pharmacist for an accurate measuring spoon.

When you are home

- **Read the label every time you take your medication.** This is to make sure you are taking the right medicine, in the right amount, in the right way, at the right time.
- **Store medications correctly.** For example, keep them away from household items and where children can reach them.
- **Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you have any concerns about the medication.** For example, even if you don't think the medication is working, keep taking it until your doctor, pharmacist or nurse tells you to stop.



Questions?

If you have a question about your medications at any time during your hospital stay, please talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. They will be happy to answer your questions.

If you have any other concerns or suggestions, contact our Director Patient Services and Integration at 613-258-6133 Ext. 181)..

