

MEDICATION LIST Q&A

Q: Why is it important for me to have a complete and accurate medication list on hand?

A: A complete and accurate medication list is necessary for your physician to provide good and proper care. Lists should be updated on a regular basis. The last time you were at the doctor or hospital, a list should have been recorded of all the medications you were taking. By the time you go back again, that list could be outdated. If emergency treatment is needed and the paramedics or physicians do not know what medications you are currently on, they could prescribe something that can cause a serious or deadly reaction. This is why it is extremely important to always have an updated list of your medications.

Q: What other information should I have ready for a doctor/hospital visit, or in case of an emergency?

A: The medication forms that will be provided to you will have all the necessary information you need to fill out. This includes all of your contact information, an emergency contact, your list of doctors, and allergy and other drug information. It is also important to list over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and dietary supplements that you are taking.

Q: Where should I bring this form?

A: Take this form with you to all Emergency Room visits, your clinic, pharmacy, hospital, physician, or other providers, including express care locations.

Q: Where should I keep the form(s)?

A: We strongly encourage you to complete two forms. The first form is a wallet-sized form that you will carry in your purse or wallet at all times. This is done to ensure that you will have your medication list with you when visiting a health care facility. The second form is a full page form that will hang on your refrigerator. This form will be readily available for EMS to grab off your refrigerator if an emergency occurs and they are called to your residence.

Q: What happens if I need to fill out a new list because my current list is outdated or I get a new prescription?

A: As long as there is still room for additional medications, you can continue to use the current form you have. If you notice that you are no longer taking one or more of the medications you have listed, draw a line through the medication so the nurse or physician knows you are no longer on that medication. If your dosage information changes, cross out the current dose and write in the new dosage information. If you need a new form, you can contact your doctor's office, pharmacy or hospital to obtain a new list. A quicker way to obtain a list is by visiting Pomerene Hospital's web site, www.pomerenehospital.org, where you can find a downloadable medication form. You can print this out and fill out all the new and updated information.

Q: What happens when I visit my doctor or hospital and they prescribe me new medication(s)?

A: When leaving your doctor, he/she may provide you with a new medication form to fill out. If this is not done, please ask for a new form. You may also visit Pomerene Hospital's website to download and print a new form. *****Please remember, we will try to remind you as often as possible to update your list, but personal responsibility is key.*****

If you are admitted to the hospital, changes to your medicine may be necessary during your stay. When you are discharged from the hospital, someone will talk with you about which medicines to take and which to stop. At this point, we encourage you to fill out a new form. A new form will be provided to you in your discharge packet. If you complete this new form, make sure you take it with you to your next doctor's appointment so everyone will be informed about the medications you are currently taking.

Q: Should everyone in my family have a personal medication record?

A: YES. We stress family involvement. For those of you with elderly parents or grandparents, we encourage you to take the time to help them fill out a medication list. This will need to be done on a regular basis or any time that their medications have changed. Make sure that they are carrying a list in their wallet or purse, so they will have it with them wherever they go. Also, it is important that they have a copy of this form that they can hang on their refrigerator. If paramedics arrive at the house and one of your loved ones needs to be transported to a hospital, the paramedic will know to grab the medication form off the refrigerator.

*****Remember...keeping an updated medication list keeps you safe. By alerting your healthcare professionals about your health and the medicines you are taking, you can help prevent errors such as omitting a needed medicine, getting the wrong dose of medicine, being prescribed a medicine to which you are allergic or a medicine that has a known interaction with another medicine you are taking. By working together, we can make sure that you are properly cared for!*****