



Important notes about your medicines

The Dudley Group 
NHS Foundation Trust

Every medicine provided by the hospital pharmacy for you to take home is clearly labelled with instructions for use, common warnings and side effects. Each pack contains a patient information leaflet explaining how to take or use your medicines and any side effects to watch out for. Please read the leaflet carefully and keep it somewhere safe, you may need to read it again.

The main things you need to know are:

1. **Why you have been prescribed this medicine.** This medicine has been prescribed for you by your doctor. It is important to take it as advised, to help your condition or symptoms.
2. **How and when you should take your medicine.** All of your medicines will be labelled with clear written instructions and have a patient information leaflet.
3. **How long you should take the medicine.** Make sure you finish taking the prescribed course of your medicine, even if you feel better, unless a healthcare professional tells you otherwise.
4. **What things to avoid when taking or using your medicine.** This includes any other medicines, drinks and foods. This information will be in the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine.
5. **Possible risks and side effects of your medicine.** All medicines can cause some side effects although not everyone gets them. If you do experience a side effect and it gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in the leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.
6. **Pregnancy and breastfeeding.** Please speak to your doctor or pharmacist before taking this medicine if you are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Other information:

Will my usual pharmacist know that my medication has changed?

You can show your discharge letter and medicines to your pharmacist. This will let them know what medication you are on now and they will be able to answer any queries you have.

Why does my hospital medicine look different to my usual medicine?

The medication may look different or have different packaging. This is because we use different suppliers. If you are concerned about this, please speak to your usual pharmacist.

How do I get more medicine if I run out?

Contact your GP and they will give you a repeat prescription.

What do I do with medicines I don't need anymore?

Please take any medicines you do not need any more to your local pharmacy so they can dispose of them safely.

Can I drive when I am taking my medicine?

Please check the patient information leaflet that comes with your medicine to see if it will affect your ability to drive.

If you have any queries about your hospital medicines once you have gone home, please contact the ward. They will be able to answer your queries or direct you to a member of the pharmacy team who can help.

A list of your current medication is included on your discharge letter. You will be given a copy of this and a copy will be sent directly to your GP.

The main number for Russells Hall Hospital is 01384 456111 or you can email medinfo@dgh.nhs.uk

This leaflet can be made available in other formats and languages – please call 0800 073 0510