



Medication and Pharmacy Services

Mater Misericordiae University Hospital

Helpful information for patients

As a patient, you will generally need to take medications while you are in hospital. You may also need to continue taking medications when you go home from hospital.

Before your stay in hospital

It is important to know exactly what medications you have been taking before you come to hospital. Your medications include prescribed medicines (from a GP or hospital doctor), medicines that you buy over-the-counter in your local chemist or supermarket, and also any herbal or homeopathic remedies that you take. It is important to remember that your medications can include **tablets, liquids or tonics, drops, creams or gels, inhalers, and injections**. **Make a list** of all the medications you are taking before coming to hospital and bring the list with you.



Your admission to hospital

When you are being admitted to hospital, the doctor or pharmacist will ask you for your **drug history** which is when you can provide them with the names of all medications you are taking. Having the list of medications with you will help you to do this easily and quickly. You can also tell them if you have any known drug allergies. Depending on the reason for your admission to hospital, you may also need to visit the pre-assessment clinic and the staff there will ask you for your drug history as well.



During your stay in hospital

During your stay in the Mater hospital, **you will be given medications** that are needed to assist with your care if necessary. One of our pharmacists will regularly check your medication chart to ensure that there are sufficient supplies of the medications in our hospital pharmacy, that you are receiving medications suitable for you and your condition, and that you are not having problems taking the medications. The pharmacist can answer questions you may have about your medications.



Going home from hospital

Feel free to **ask the doctor, nurse or pharmacist questions** about the medications you are taking before you go home, as it's important that you understand and feel comfortable taking the medication as part of your treatment when you leave the hospital.



At your local chemist

If you have been prescribed medications as part of your treatment, it's a good idea to get them as soon as possible from your chemist. If you are a medical card holder, remember to bring your medical card with you when you go to the chemist to get your medications. There are HSE schemes that can assist with the cost of prescribed medication for medical card holders and non-medical card holders.



Please see www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/1/schemes for more information.

Tips for taking your medications

It's important to remember to take your medication that has been prescribed for you. The following ideas may help you to remember to take your medication

✓ **Take your medication at the same time every day**

You can set alarms on your mobile phone or computer

✓ **Use dosage aids**

For example, a special tablet box (these are available from your local chemist)

✓ **Make a daily plan**

If you need to take several medications, make a daily plan that you can include on a calendar, or to stick on your fridge door or on a noticeboard

✓ **Ask family or friends to help**

Ask family or friends to call and remind you to take your medications

