

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT YOUR MEDICINES

For a new medication:

- What is this new medicine for?
- Are there any non-drug options that I could consider?
- What are we hoping this new medicine will do for me?
- When should I expect the medicine to begin working?
- When can I expect the full effect of this medicine to occur?
- How long will I have to take this medicine?
- How often will I need to come back to check the effects of this medicine?
- Will I need any tests to see if the medicine is working? If so, what tests and how often?
- What happens if I have side effects from the medicine?
- What happens if the medicine does not seem to work or does not work well enough?

For existing medications:

- Do I still need to take this medicine?
- Specifically, why do I need to take this medicine?
- Are there any tests to check if the medicine is working? If so, what tests?
What are my results?
- Are my results where they should be? Or could the results be better?
If results could be better, what changes if any do you plan to make to my medications?
What can I do to make results better?
- If you have symptoms or side effects, ask if these could be due to your medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you do not think your medicine is helping.

Always

- Carry an up-to-date list of your medicines, including prescription, over-the-counter (non-prescription), and herbal remedies. The list should include the strength and directions.
- Include any allergies you have to medications on this list.
- Show this list to any health care provider that you see, including doctors, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, home health nurses.
- Tell your doctor about other health professionals that you are seeing.
- Tell your doctor if you are not taking a medicine the way it was prescribed, if you have stopped taking the medicine, or if you are taking more or less of the medicine than the doctor originally prescribed.

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ABOUT YOUR MEDICINES

For a new medication:

- What is the name of the medicine and what is it supposed to do?
- How much of this medicine should I take?
- When is the best time of day to take this medicine?
- Should I take this medicine with or without food? Are there foods or drinks that I should avoid while I am taking this medicine?
- What side effects can I expect from this medicine?
- Will this medicine interfere with any of my other medicines?
- Will this medicine make any of my conditions worse?
- What things should my doctor and I do to make sure this medicine is working properly?
- How should I store this medicine?
- What should I do if I miss a dose?
- Will I need to get this medicine refilled? Are there refills on the prescription?
- Are there any over-the-counter (non-prescription) medicines I should avoid while taking this medicine?
- Ask about any concerns you have regarding taking this medicine.

For existing medications:

- Tell your pharmacist if you are having any problems or side effects with your current medicines.
- Before taking an over-the-counter (non-prescription) medication or herbal therapy, ask your pharmacist about any possible drug interactions or side effects
- Tell your pharmacist if you do not believe the medicine is helping.