

TIPS for Parents

by parents

KEEP TRACK OF YOUR CHILD'S MEDICATIONS

Making sure your child gets the right medicine at the right time with the right dosage is called medication safety. Medication safety is a top priority for the hospital and mistakes are rare. Your involvement can help prevent mistakes and keep your child safe. To do this, you can:

Share your knowledge.

- “Brown Bag It.” Before each hospital visit, put all of your child’s prescriptions in a bag and bring them with you to show the doctor. You can also keep a list of each medication, including dosages. Bring the list to the hospital or clinic visits.
- Put all non-prescription medicine in the bag or on the list (e.g., Tylenol, Motrin, herbal medicines and vitamins).
- Tell the doctor about reactions to any medication.
- Tell your doctor about allergies to food or Latex. Some medications may include allergens, such as egg products.

Remember: Do not give your child medications from home while at the hospital.

Ask about medications during your stay.

- Make sure you know what each medicine is and why it is being given, both in the hospital and at home.
- Ask about and watch for possible side effects.

Make sure staff checks your child’s ID band.

- The ID band is important to your child’s safety at the hospital. Do not permit your child to remove the ID band.
- Your child’s ID band should be compared to the label on every medication, every time, even if the staff member is familiar to you. It is OK to remind staff to check the ID band for each medication.

Double-check medications.

- At discharge, make sure you understand what each prescription is for and how and when it is given.
- Make sure you can read the prescription.
- If your child’s discharge orders do not include a medication that he/she was previously taking at home, ask the doctor before continuing to give the medication.
- At the pharmacy, double-check the label. Does it match the prescription?
- At home, make sure you add any new medication to your “brown bag” or medication list for your next visit.

These tip sheets were developed by the parents of the Family Advisory Council at the Morgan Stanley Children’s Hospital of New York Presbyterian.

For more information on the Family Advisory Council, please email familyadvisorycouncil@nyp.org.



You are part of
your child's
healthcare team!