

# You and your medicines

An information guide



# **You and your medicines - *pharmacy service and provision of medications***

Please ask your ward pharmacy team (where applicable)

Your ward pharmacist is.....

Your ward pharmacy technician is.....

**The pharmacy team are here to help you understand your medications.**

**If you or your carer have any questions about your medication, please ask to see your allocated ward pharmacist.**

## **Finding out about your usual medication**

When you are admitted to hospital, one of the pharmacy staff will speak to you about what medications you take at home and make a record of this. This information will then be discussed with the doctor or nurses looking after you to make sure that your treatment reflects what you take at home, if this is still appropriate. It is important that we know about all the medications that you take, either prescribed or bought (**i.e. over the counter, from the internet or from health food shops**), in case these might have caused a problem with your health or may interfere with the treatments we give you.

At this point we will also ensure that the medication is available on the ward for you, either by checking and using what medicines you have brought in to hospital or by making a supply from the hospital dispensary.

## **Using your own medications**

If you are coming to hospital and you think you may have to stay in, please bring with you all medications which you are currently taking at home, in their original packaging; along with your repeat prescription list if you have one.

This applies if you come in via the emergency department, via your GP or if you are coming in for a planned operation or procedure.

If you forget, please ask your family or friends to bring them in at the earliest opportunity.

## **The advantages of bringing your medicines into hospital**

- Bringing your medicines into hospital will help us to know exactly what medication you are taking at home and assess whether all medication is being taken correctly
- Any medication no longer needed can be disposed of safely and not stored at home. This should help avoid any accidental doubling up of medicines
- It will prevent unnecessary wastage of your medication
- It will allow you to continue taking the medication you are used to at home without any breaks in treatment
- It should help to speed up your discharge from hospital.

Medication will usually be stored in a locked cabinet next to or near your bed.

Soon after admission, a pharmacy technician or pharmacist will check through your medication.

If they meet the hospital criteria for use, with your permission, your medicines will be used during your stay.

## **Changes to your medication**

During your stay in hospital there may be changes made to your medication depending on your condition when the medical team see you.

The pharmacist will review your prescriptions on a regular basis during your stay, ensuring that the medications that have been started or changed are suitable for you, and will also monitor if they are working or possibly causing side effects. They will also explain if there are any particular instructions on how to take your medication.

Within the hospital, we usually prescribe from a set list of medications, called a formulary. Medicines on the formulary have been chosen because evidence shows that they are the most cost effective treatments. Sometimes the medicines we supply to you may differ in appearance from those you have at home, for instance they may be a different brand, or be referred to by their proper (generic) name rather than the brand name.

If you or your carers have any questions about why medications have been stopped or started, what side effects you may experience or any other concerns, please ask.

Whilst you are in hospital, you may receive medication that contains ingredients derived from animals. If you have any concerns about this, please let your doctor, nurse, midwife or pharmacist know.

### **What happens when I go home?**

The clinical team will review when you are fit for discharge from hospital. They will make sure everything is in place to ensure it is safe for you to leave the ward.

This is a complex process and can involve many different teams. We all work very hard together to ensure that this process goes smoothly. We may, however, be trying to make sure several patients make it home safely at any one time. Please bear this in mind if you do experience any delay.

In order to ensure that you receive the correct medication when you leave hospital, the medical team will review this according to your condition. They will then produce a discharge prescription, which will have a list of medications, and may include information on your condition for your GP.

The pharmacist will review this list of medications to ensure everything is prescribed appropriately. The pharmacy team will

ensure that you have the correct medication available to you when you go home.

Sometimes in special circumstances or if you are discharged outside of normal working hours, this process will be undertaken by a suitably qualified doctor or nurse.

When you are discharged from hospital the pharmacy will ensure that you have at least seven days supply of all your medication, allowing you sufficient time to visit your GP for further supplies if necessary.

### **General advice about medicines**

- Before you leave hospital, the doctor/pharmacist/nurse should explain to you why you have been prescribed/advised to take each medicine and whether it's a short or long term course
- Take time to read the information leaflet provided with your medication or check with a healthcare professional if there are any side effects you should be aware of
- When you buy medicines over the counter from a pharmacy, check whether they are the same as (or if they will interfere with) any medication you are already taking.

**Do you have a question about your medicines following your recent hospital stay? Call the Pennine Acute Medication Helpline on 0161 625 8337 or 0161 625 8968 for advice.**

**Fairfield General**

**0161 778 3558**

**8:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday**

**9am-12pm Saturdays**

## **Royal Oldham Hospital**

**0161 627 8961**

**8:30am to 5pm Monday to Friday**

**9am-12pm Saturdays**

## **North Manchester General**

**0161 720 2175**

**8:45am to 5pm Monday to Friday**

**9am-12pm Saturdays**

## **Rochdale Infirmary**

**01706 517308**

**8:45am to 5:15pm Monday to Friday**

Community pharmacies provide a free NHS service to help you understand your medication.

Your pharmacist is a medicines expert who will go through all your medicines – including new ones – making sure you know how to use them properly for the best effect, advise how to manage side effects and answer your questions.

Ensure you tell your usual pharmacy that you have been in hospital before your next prescription is due.

*Information leaflet adapted from that of Central Manchester NHS Foundation Trust with thanks.*

**If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service**

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

☎ : 0161 627 8770

@ : interpretation@pat.nhs.uk

To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

**For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897**


**For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service**

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

 [www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup](http://www.facebook.com/NorthernCareAllianceNHSGroup)

 [www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group](http://www.linkedin.com/company/northern-care-alliance-nhs-group)

 Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) @NCAlliance\_NHS

**Date of publication: August 2013**  
**Date of review: November 2019**  
**Date of next review: November 2021**  
**Ref: PI\_M\_819**

© The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group



[www.pat.nhs.uk](http://www.pat.nhs.uk)

[www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk](http://www.northerncarealliance.nhs.uk)