

## Patient information

# Information about your Medicines

The paper copy of your discharge letter is important. It provides information for you and others about your current medication.

Please make sure that you show the discharge letter to your GP, or other health professional, if you need to see them urgently shortly after discharge. An electronic version of the discharge letter is sent to your GP practice.

If your medication has changed whilst you have been in hospital please let your community pharmacist see your discharge letter so that your pharmacy medication records can be updated.

## Medicines advice for patients

The information provided on this sheet is designed to provide you with general advice on medicines. If you require further information there are other resources listed.

**Store all medicines safely:** Make sure they cannot be seen or reached by children or vulnerable adults. Please check the pharmacy label for storage instructions such as “store in the fridge”.

**Never share your medicines:** Your medicines have been prescribed for you to take – nobody else.

**Disposal of medicines no longer required:** Medicines no longer required must be disposed of safely. Safe disposal can be ensured by returning unwanted medicines to your Community Pharmacy or the dispensary if your GP is a dispensing practice.

**Use the medicine as directed on the label:** Make sure you understand exactly how and when to take your medicines. Swallow tablets or capsules with a glass of water, unless otherwise stated. If possible stand or sit upright.

**Short treatments – complete the course:** Do not stop taking your medicines, even if you feel better, unless your doctor agrees. Anything less than a full course of treatment can stop you from getting completely better, even though you feel well again.

**Ongoing treatments:** Some medicines will need to be continued by your GP. Please ensure you contact your GP in advance to avoid running out of your medicines.

**Patient information leaflets:** All licensed medicines come with a patient information leaflet. This gives information about what the medicine is for and how the medicine should be taken.

Sometimes medicines are used for conditions not listed on the patient information leaflet. You should follow the instructions your doctor has given you (as on the pharmacy label). If you have any queries, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

**Side effects:** Some medications may have unwanted side effects. Many are minor, harmless or short-lived. Patient information leaflets will list reported side effects. This does not mean that you will experience these side effects. If you experience side effects that are particularly troublesome or persistent contact your doctor or pharmacist.

**Missed doses:** Check the patient information leaflet for advice on a missed dose. If you forget a dose take, it when you remember, unless it is nearly time for the next dose, then miss the dose. DO NOT take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**Medicines for children:** The patient information leaflet may state “not recommended for use in children”, although the use of the medicine may well be established. If you are concerned about any medicine prescribed, please speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

**Use in pregnancy and breast feeding:** If you are pregnant or think you might be, or are breast feeding and the patient information leaflet says ‘not to be used in pregnancy’ or ‘not to be used if breast feeding’ please speak to your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible.

**Buying medicines:** Tell the pharmacist and ask for advice about any other medicines you take including herbal medicines or medicines bought at a chemist, supermarket or health food shop.

**Where you can get more information:** There are several resources you can use if you have any questions about your medicines or require more information. The following websites may be helpful:

NHS Medicines Guides ([www.nhs.uk/medicines-guides](http://www.nhs.uk/medicines-guides) )

NHS Choices ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

NHS Direct ([www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk))

emc (Electronic Medicines Compendium)

Medicines Guides ([www.medicines.org.uk/guides](http://www.medicines.org.uk/guides))

West Suffolk Hospital Medicines Information Helpline on 01284 713109; Monday to Friday 9.00am to 2.00pm

## Notes:

*If you would like any information regarding access to the West Suffolk Hospital and its facilities please visit the website for AccessAble (the new name for DisabledGo) <https://www.accessable.co.uk/organisations/west-suffolk-nhs-foundation-trust>*



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## Your medication supply

Your prescription was prepared:

- On the ward
- In the pharmacy department

### Pharmacy times (if applicable):

Time your prescription was **received** in pharmacy: .....

Time your prescription was **ready** in pharmacy: .....

Delays with your prescription: *(marked below if applicable)*

- Doctor contacted for clarification of the prescription
- Time was needed to obtain supply of your medicine

Other (specified): .....

Outpatients **only** - time patient informed of the delay: .....

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We hope that you are happy with the service provided by the pharmacy department. If you would like to let us know how we have performed please go to [www.wsh.nhs.uk](http://www.wsh.nhs.uk). You will find a short, anonymous questionnaire in the **Pharmacy** section by clicking '**Services A to Z**' then the '**Clinical Services**' link.

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