

Bringing your own medication into hospital

Information and advice for patients

Pharmacy

At Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust we ask patients to bring their own medicines in from home when they are coming to stay in hospital if this is possible.

The advantages of this are:

- The hospital staff looking after you will have a complete record of all the medicines you are taking.
- It will allow the nurses to make sure that you do not miss any doses, as the right medicine is available at the right time.
- You will continue to receive familiar medicine during your hospital stay.
- It can make going home quicker and easier.
- It will reduce wastage of medicines in the NHS and help to reduce our impact on the environment.

What shall I bring with me?

Please bring all your medication into hospital in the original containers including:

- Tablets and capsules
- Liquids
- Creams and ointments
- Inhalers
- Sprays
- Insulin
- Eye drops, ear drops, nose drops
- Injections
- Medication patches
- Compliance aid boxes
- Medication that has been bought by you or for you for example herbal products or health remedies or medication you buy from the chemist, supermarkets or health food shops.

If you have left your medication at home when you come into hospital, please ask a relative or friend to bring it in with them at their next visit.

What happens when I come into hospital?

When you come into hospital a doctor and pharmacist will check your medication to find out what you are taking and how often. A pharmacist will also visit you and ask to check that your medicines are suitable for use.

You will be asked to sign a consent form to say that you agree to your medication being used or disposed of as deemed appropriate, so if the medicines you brought into hospital are no longer in use or do not meet our criteria for use they will be safely disposed of for you.

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Storing and taking your medication

- Any medicines of your own that are suitable for use will be safely and securely stored in your own personal medicine locker by your bed.
- The hospital pharmacy will supply any other additional medication that the doctors have prescribed. These will also be stored in your personal medicine locker by your bed.
- Tell the nurse looking after you when you want to take your medication, so that s/he can open your locker for you.
- Each time you have your medication tell the nurse looking after you, so that it can be recorded on your prescription chart.
- During your stay in hospital pharmacy staff will be working together with ward staff to ensure that the medication in your locker is up-to-date and well stocked with all that you need.

Going home

When a doctor decides it is time for you to leave hospital, you will receive enough medicines for at least 7 days (where appropriate). A nurse or member of the pharmacy team will explain what medicines you will need to take and how to take them.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines please speak to your pharmacist, doctors or nurses at any time.

For more information about our hospitals and services please see our website:

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

www.swbh.nhs.uk

If you would like to suggest any amendments or improvements to this leaflet please contact the communications department on 0121 507 5420 or email: swb-tr.swbh-gm-patient-information@nhs.net



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