

MEDICATION SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Medication is an important part of your treatment. When you come into the day surgery we will ask you about the medicines you take. Please tell us if you are using:

- tablets from a pharmacist or supermarket
- liquid medicine, e.g. cough syrup
- natural therapies such as herbs and tinctures
- vitamin supplements
- medicated creams
- puffers/inhalers
- eye drops.

You can help ensure safe medication use by:

- keeping an up-to-date list of your medicines and showing it to our staff
- letting staff know if you have had any allergies or bad reactions to medicines in the past
- knowing the name of each of your medicines, what it is for, how it should be taken and any side effects. This is especially important for any new medications
- asking what medicines you're given and why. Ensure you receive information about each new medication you are started on – what it is for, how to take it and any side effects to look out for before you go home
- understanding which other medicines, foods or drinks to avoid when taking the medicine.

ALLERGIES TO MEDICATIONS

It is vital that you also inform your doctor and us if you have had any allergies or previous reactions to medications, food or latex etc. and the severity of that reaction.

SURGERY AND YOUR MEDICATION

It is important that you talk to your doctor about your medications prior to surgery.

You need to understand if you should take your usual medication on the day of your surgery. If you have diabetes or high blood pressure make sure you have been given instructions about taking your medication on the day of surgery.

Herbal or natural supplements may need to be stopped seven days prior to your procedure, check with your doctor.

AFTER YOUR SURGERY

Your coordination may be affected by the medication given during your procedure. Don't drive a car, make any big decisions or sign legal documents for 24 hours.

Take it easy for the next day or two. It may take several days before you feel back to normal.