

We encourage your involvement in Medication Safety

To promote patient safety, Oaklawn Hospital has created a patient medication list that patients and their families can carry with them to medical appointments. You can ensure a safer experience with any health care system by being involved and informed about your treatment. Medication Safety means that you will receive the medication prescribed to you at the right time and in the right way. Your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, and other health care providers welcome your involvement in this process. We encourage you to complete a medication list and carry it with you at all times, especially when you seek medical care from your physician, emergency room, are being admitted to the hospital or receiving treatment in an outpatient services area. It is important to remember that medications on the list are not just the medications you pick up from your pharmacist, but should include vitamins or herbal medications also.

How to Use the Med List

Keep your Med List with you at all times-use it during visits to your doctor, pharmacist, and other healthcare providers to help you and your family members remember all the medications you are taking.

Remember to update your medication

list when your doctor changes, stops or updates you medication.

Write down all the medicines you are taking, including over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herb and other treatments, include the name of the doctor who prescribed the medication and why you are taking the medicine (e.g., high blood pressure, high blood sugar, high cholesterol).

Using Medications Wisely

Learn about your medications. Whenever you get a new medication, ask your doctor these questions:

- What is the name of the drug and what is it suppose to do?
- How and when do I take it- and for how long? What do I do if I skip a dose?
- What precautions should I take if I go out in the sun for prolonged periods or travel to a warm climate?
- What foods, drinks, other medicines or activities should I avoid while taking this drug?
- Are there side effects, and what do I do if they occur?
- Is there any written educational information available about the drug in the community, or at a reliable internet site?
- Read the label each time you take the medicine to ensure you are taking the right drug at the right time.

During Hospital Stays

Ask the doctor or nurse what drugs you are being given at the hospital. Do not take a drug without knowing its purpose. You have the right to have a representative present whenever you are receiving medication and are unable to monitor the medication use process yourself.

Before surgery ask whether there are medications, especially prescription antibiotics, that you should take or any that you should stop taking preoperatively.

Prior to leaving the hospital, ask for a list of the medications that you should be taking at home, have a provider review them with you, and be sure you understand how these medications should be taken.

Know Your Medication for Better Health

During medical appointments, your physician will review the list and decide whether to continue or discontinue the medications listed. This is called “medication reconciliation”. You are being asked to learn about the medications you are taking, why you are taking them, what the medication looks like, what time you should take them, and potential side effects.

Make sure you understand your medications and what activity and eating plan you should follow.

If you or family members are unable to complete the list of medications, bring all your medications including over the counter drugs, herbs, and vitamins with you for the next office visit. It is important to include over-the-counter medications, herbs, vitamins and other dietary supplements, because these products can act like medications, with interactions and side effects.

This brochure was developed by Oaklawn Hospital in an effort to support National Patient Safety Goal #8 for Medication Reconciliation.



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