

Three Steps to Preventing Medication Errors

1. Bring your personal medications with you to the hospital.

- These medications will be used by your nursing team to help complete an accurate list during your stay.
- Once your list is finalized, please have your personal medications brought back home by a friend or family member if possible.

2. Take only medications dispensed by Holland Hospital during your stay.

- Holland Hospital has established safety practices to prevent medication errors.
- Use of home medication would compromise our safety practices.
- We provide all oral medications at a minimal cost to our patients.

3. Be an active participant in your discharge plan.

- When it's time to leave the hospital, have a family member present.
- We consider you our most valuable partner, so please ask questions.

Medication Safety



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Why is it important to bring my medications to the hospital?

Bringing your medications in the original packaging with the original labels, along with a medication list, helps our doctors, nurses and pharmacists keep an accurate record of everything you're taking. This also ensures you receive the correct medications during your stay.

Can I take my medications from home during my hospital stay?

Using your own medications while in the hospital is a safety risk. Holland Hospital utilizes safeguards such as bar code scanning technology and electronic medical records that alert us to drug interactions, allergies, and other potential issues regarding your drug therapy. For these reasons, the use of home medications while you are a patient at Holland Hospital is discouraged unless absolutely necessary. Holland Hospital provides all oral medications at a minimal cost to all of our patients. If you bring your medications with you from home, we kindly ask that you have someone available to take them home after a review by your health care team.

What does a complete medication list include?

- Drug name and strength
- Dose (number of tablets or capsules)
- Directions/how often you take it
- Reason for taking the medication

Your list should include prescription and over-the-counter drugs (e.g., Tylenol, Zyrtec), and all vitamins, herbals and supplements. Please share any additional information that will help us deliver the correct dosage during your stay (e.g., height, weight and allergies).



Can I keep taking my regular medications when I return home?

Our providers will review a discharge plan with you and give you appropriate directions concerning your medications. Be sure to ask your doctor or nurse to clearly explain which medications you should be taking. You should also update your medication list by adding, removing or changing any medicines as necessary based on your discharge instructions.

Other helpful tips:

- Keep all medications in their original packaging and labeling, and store them according to the manufacturer recommendations.
- Update your medication list on a regular basis. If you're a Holland Hospital Patient Portal member, you can also update your medication list online: hollandhospital.org/portal. In case of emergency, keep this list in your wallet or purse.
- Always check the expiration date on your medications and properly dispose of any expired products.