

Preventing Medication Errors

Steps you can take to help

1. Make sure that all of your child's doctors and pharmacists know:

- **Everything** your child is taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements, such as vitamins and herbs
- Any allergies and adverse reactions your child has to medicines
- Your child's weight and age

2. When your doctor writes a prescription for your child:

- Make sure you can read it.
- Go over the prescription with your doctor. Ask for information about your child's medicines in terms you can understand.

3. When you visit the pharmacy:

- Ask your pharmacist any questions about the directions and other information on the prescription label.
- Ask your pharmacist any questions about using the device for measuring your child's liquid medicine.
- Ask for written information about:
 - What is the medicine for?
 - How am I supposed to give it, at what time each day, with or without food, and for how long?
 - What side effects may occur? What do I do if they occur?
 - Is the medicine safe to give with other medicines or dietary supplements?
 - What do I do if I miss a dose?
 - How do I properly store the medicine?

4. When you are at home:

- Store medicines in a safe location that is too high for young children to reach or see.
- Use a medicine log to keep track each time you take or give medicine.

If you have any questions about your medicines after you get home, call your pharmacist at 206-987-2138.

Adapted from AHRQ Patient Fact Sheet.

To Learn More

- Seattle Ocean Pharmacy
206-987-2138
- Bellevue Pharmacy
206-884-9120
- Your child's healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your child's nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line
1-866-583-1527.
Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.

Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201.

This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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