How Do I Get the Most From the Medicines I Take?

Get to Know Your Medicines

Medicines are prescribed to help you.
For every medicine you take, ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain:

• What the medicine is
• What the medicine is for
• How and when to take the medicine

Taking more than one medicine at different times each day can be hard. The key is to create a routine that fits your life.

Make a routine for taking your medicines as directed.

• Fill out a medicine log or calendar. Keep it with you at all times.

• Mark a calendar each time you take a dose of your medicine.
  Keep the calendar near your medicines.

Before you take your medicine...

• Read the label to make sure you are taking the right medicine at the right time.

• Never take your medicine in the dark or if you cannot read the label.

Take your medicines at the same time every day.

• Take your medicines with other daily habits, like brushing your teeth or eating a meal.

• Do not change how you take your medicine unless you have talked with your doctor about it.

Keep track of your medicines.

• Keep your medicine in a place where you will see it daily (but out of the reach of children).

• Use a pill box marked with the days of the week. Take it with you when you are away from home.

• Wear a watch. Set an alarm. Leave yourself a note on the bathroom mirror.

• Plan ahead for refills so that you do not run out of your medicine. Mark a calendar with “Refill on [date].”