

AT DISCHARGE: MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL DEVICES

TRANSCRIPT

When you are in the hospital, doctors, nurses and staff members work to ensure you take your medications at the right time and in the right amounts. Once you leave the hospital, you will need to continue this routine in order to recovery safely.

The medications you need to take will be listed on your discharge plan. This medication list may include new medications, both prescription and over-the-counter, but it may also include changes to some of the medications you were taking before you were in the hospital.

You may take some medications for only a short time. Others you may take for the rest of your life. It is important you understand all of your medications, what they are for, how they work and when to take them. Ask any questions you have about your medications now – both new and old prescriptions, as well as any over-the-counter medications you take, including vitamins and supplements – before you leave the hospital. And be sure you take them as directed once you leave.

It's a good idea to get all of your medications at one pharmacy. This way, the pharmacist will have a complete list of your medications on file and can alert you to any possible drug interactions.

Depending on why you are in the hospital, you may require other medical products or equipment as well. It's important that you understand how to use them correctly before discharge. Hospital staff can help you develop the skills you need to use this equipment confidently and safely as you recover.

Taking your medications as instructed and properly using medical devices as you recover can help you avoid complications in the future, and a return trip to the hospital.