

Your medicines matter.

Questions and Answers for patients and carers

Should I bring my medicines to every appointment at the hospital?

You should bring your medicines when you come into hospital for an appointment, are admitted or need to go to A&E. An up to date medicines list would also be useful.

What medicines should I bring in to hospital with me?

Please bring any medicines you have bought from pharmacies or supermarkets and are taking or using, as well as medicines that have been prescribed for you. This includes tablets, capsules, liquids, creams, inhalers, drops, injections and patches. If possible, please bring your own medicines into hospital in original labelled containers with your name and the directions.

What are the advantages of bringing in my medicines from home?

Bringing in your medicines from home will help improve safety, reduce medication waste and associated costs.

You will:

- help hospital staff decide on the best and safest treatment for you
- continue taking medicines you recognise
- reduce waste and the cost of hospitals reissuing medicines you already have
- help reduce delays when it is time to go home.

What are the benefits of patients bringing in their own medicines to the hospital?

If more patients could remember to bring their medicines into hospital it would reduce the costs of having to supply duplicate medicines. Resupplying medicines for patients who leave theirs at home contributes to the region's significant medicine waste. If levels of medicines waste in Greater Manchester match those seen across the country this could equate to £18.8m annually which, if saved, could be reinvested into providing front-line care for patients.

How do I bring my medicines into hospital with me?

If you have been issued with a green pharmacy bag (as opposite) please use this to bring your medicines into hospital. Alternatively, please use any other suitable bag or container. Please inform a member of hospital staff that you have brought your own medicines with you when you arrive into hospital.

What will the hospital do with my medicines?

The hospitals will first check your medicines. If they are safe to use, they will be stored securely along with any other medicines you may need and will be used during your stay. When leaving hospital, staff will ensure you have at least a seven-day supply of medicines to go home with.



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What happens if I run out of my own medicines when I'm in hospital?

The hospital will issue additional medication.

What happens if my medicines change?

If your dosage or medicines change, the hospital will either re-label your own medicines with the new information or provide you with a new supply.

What happens to the medicines I don't need any more?

The hospital can safely dispose of any medicines that are no longer suitable or needed.

What happens when I'm ready to go home?

The hospital will send you home with the same medicines you brought in unless they have changed or your supply has run out during your stay. The hospital Pharmacy team will ensure you have at least a seven day supply of all your medicines to return home with. Once discharged, please contact your GP to arrange further supplies of medication.

What happens if I can't bring my medicines into hospital with me?

If you have medicines at home, it would be helpful if a relative or carer could bring these into hospital for you as soon as possible. If this is not possible your hospital will issue medication from hospital stock ensuring you do not miss any scheduled doses.

I've brought my medicines into hospital before and they have been lost or returned.

As part of the 'Your medicines matter' campaign we are ensuring hospital staff, GPs, the ambulance service and community pharmacies understand why it is important for you to bring in your medicines from home. All hospitals in Greater Manchester are working together to encourage and remind staff and patients that bringing in medicines from home is best. We are ensuring that all hospital staff understand what to do with the medicines you bring into hospital, that they know how and where to store them, and that they keep them safe at all times. We are also ensuring staff understand the importance of transferring your medicines with you if you move wards.

How do I find out more?

If you have any questions you can talk to your Community pharmacy, GP surgery, or Hospital staff.