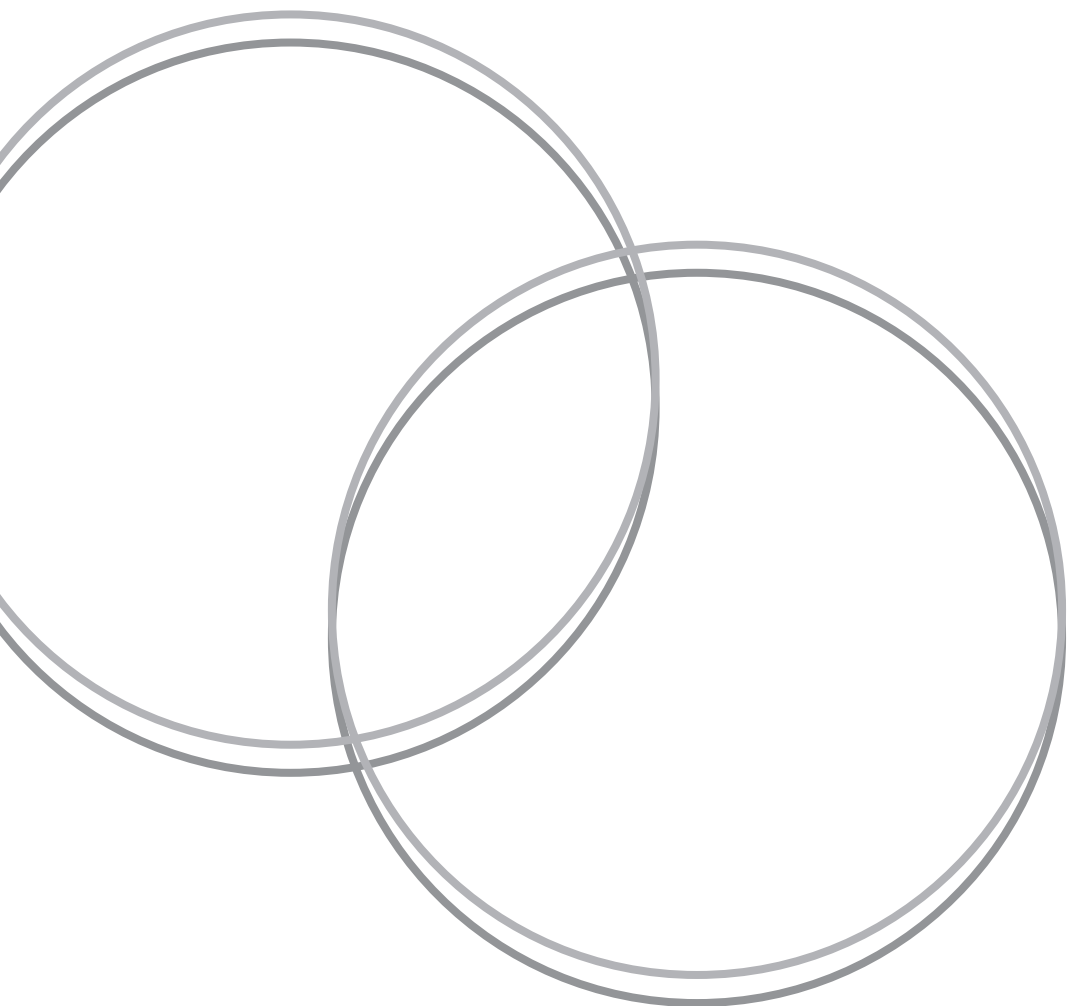




Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Self-administration of medicines in hospital

Information for patients



What is self-administration of medicines?

Whilst in hospital, nursing staff will usually be responsible for giving you any prescribed medicines. This is suitable for some people as they may not be able to take their medicines themselves. Other people may be able to and wish to take their medicines themselves.

Self-administering your medicines means that you can get your medicines yourself from a medicines storage locker next to your hospital bed. You will then be able to take your medicines yourself at the time that they are due whilst you are in hospital.

What are the benefits of self-administering medicines in hospital?

- Becoming or remaining familiar with how to take your medicines in a supportive environment in advance of being discharged from hospital
- To help you to develop a good understanding of your medicines and your prescriptions

Before starting self-administration:

A nurse, midwife or pharmacy medicines management technician and pharmacist will assess your suitability to be part of the self-administration of medicines scheme. Unfortunately, you will not be able to begin self-administering your medicines on evenings, weekends, or bank holidays.

The assessment is needed to identify if you need any support with taking your medicines. It may not be safe for everyone assessed to be able to self-administer their medicines.

Some medicines will be unsuitable for self-administration.

For example, medicines that need to be given into a vein by an injection or drip will require a nurse or midwife to set up the equipment.

Any medicines that cannot be self-administered will be identified during the assessment and discussed with you.

Consent to self-administer your medicines

If it seems appropriate for you to self-administer your medicines following the assessment, you will be asked to sign a 'Patient consent to self-administer medicines' form. This form outlines your responsibilities to enrol on the self-administration of medicines scheme.

By signing the form, you will show you understand what is involved. You will be responsible for taking the right medicine at the right dose at the right time and be supported by the ward team to do this.

What happens if I change my mind and no longer wish to self-administer my medicines?

You are able to change your mind at any time during your hospital stay. The nurse will return to giving you your medicines. This will also apply if you suddenly become unwell. You may return to self-administering your medicines after a further assessment.

Access to medicines

Your nurse must always have access to your medicines, in case of an emergency.

If you are given a medication key to access your medicines, you are responsible for looking after this key. You must keep this key with you at all times and not give it to anyone else other than your nurse, pharmacist, or pharmacy medicines management technician. If you do not feel able to look after the key, you may not be suitable for self-administration.

Some medicines require special storage such as controlled drugs or may need to be kept in a medicines fridge, so may not be suitable to store at your bedside.

Record keeping

Your nurse will ask you at different times throughout the day if you have taken your medicines. This is to make sure that there is an accurate record of medicines you have taken. This is important to know as medicines may form a key part of your treatment and may need to be reviewed if you become unwell.

Please give the nurse an accurate record of which medicines you have taken and the dose. If you forget to or are unable to take any of your medicines, please let the nurse know as soon as possible so that we can ensure you receive the right care.

Medicines supply

Medicines supplied by the hospital pharmacy during your current stay, remain the property of the hospital until you are discharged with them. If you notice that you are running low of any of your medicines, please let your nurse, midwife, nurse associate or pharmacy team know.

Support whilst self-administering your medicines

Your nurse will check in with you regularly to confirm you have taken your medicines and ask if you require any support. Support is also available from the doctors and pharmacy team.

Medicines for going home

When we are preparing for you to leave hospital, the pharmacy and nursing team will review your medicines. This is to make sure you have enough supplies and remove any medicines no longer needed. They will also review medicines you have brought in from home.

Further questions

If you have any questions about your medicines, speak to your nurse, doctor, pharmacist, or pharmacy medicines management technician on the ward.

If you have any questions about the medicines given to you once you have left the hospital, contact the hospital Medicines Patient Helpline on **01865 228906**. You can also discuss your medicines with your local community pharmacist or GP once you have been discharged from hospital.

Further information

If you would like an interpreter, please speak to the department where you are being seen.

Please also tell them if you would like this information in another format, such as:

- Easy Read
- large print
- braille
- audio
- electronic
- another language.

We have tried to make the information in this leaflet meet your needs. If it does not meet your individual needs or situation, please speak to your healthcare team. They are happy to help.

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Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
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