

Patient information sheet: Bringing your medicines into hospital

West Moreton Health (WMH) encourages patients to bring their own medicines into hospital. When you are admitted to hospital, please bring all of your current medicines and your current medicines list, if you have one.

Why should I bring my own medicines into hospital?

Bringing in your own medicines will help us give you the best medical care by:

- Having a complete picture of what medicines you take to ensure you receive the right medicines while you are in hospital.
- Enabling you to take the brand of medicines you are used to, where possible.
- Identifying any problems you may have with your current medicines.
- Choosing new medicines, if needed, that work well with your usual medicines.



What medicines should I bring into hospital?

Medicines refers to your tablets, pills, drugs, sprays, or anything you take for your health. You should bring all medicines you have taken before hospital admission, as well as your medicines list (if available). This includes:



What if I forget to bring all of my medicines?

If you come into hospital without your medicines, ask a family member, carer or friend to bring them in for you. If you are unable to do this, the pharmacy department and wards stock a wide range of medicines and will make every effort to supply your medicines, using a different brand if necessary.

If I bring my own medicines from home, what happens to them?

When you enter hospital, a doctor, pharmacist or nurse will go through your medicines with you to discuss what you have been taking and if you have had any problems with them. Once prescribed on your inpatient medication chart, doses of your medicines may be given to you by the nursing staff during your stay in hospital. A pharmacist or nurse will check your medicines and issue more supplies if needed during your stay. Medicines that are not prescribed on your inpatient medication chart cannot be given to you by staff. However, if you feel that you should be taking them, please tell the nurse, doctor or pharmacist.



Your medicines will be stored safely and securely in a locked cabinet, usually beside your bed. Some medicines will need to be stored in a safe, as per legislation. If any of your medicines need to be stored in the fridge, mention this to staff when you arrive at hospital.

What if I need new medicines or there are changes to my usual medicines?

- Any new medicines started during your hospital stay will be supplied by the hospital. On discharge, prescriptions will be provided for all new medicines.
- If your dose changes but the medicines remain the same, your medicines may be re-labelled by the pharmacist with the new instructions. This will help reduce costs for you.
- A medicine you are taking may need to be stopped as part of your treatment and this will be discussed with you. With your consent, it can be safely disposed of.

What will happen when I go home?

- Before going home, the medicines you have been taking while in hospital will be reviewed and you will be told of any medicine changes and why they have occurred.
- Your own medicines will be returned to you when you leave hospital, along with prescriptions for any additional medicines provided for you by the hospital. Charges will apply for any medicines given to you to take home.
- Please bring your Medicare card and any concession cards, including your SafetyNet card, into hospital with you.
- You may be provided with an updated list of your current medicines whenever possible. Please make sure you update your medicine list with any changes to your medicines when you leave hospital. It is important and helpful to have a current list and take it to your regular doctor and pharmacy so they can update their records.
- Make sure you are confident knowing how to take your medicines, including when, and what the important side effects are.



What if I have questions about my medicines while I am in hospital?

- If you have questions about your medicines please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.
- If you have any questions about the information provided in this fact sheet, please contact the Pharmacy Department on 07 3810 1222.
- Interpreter Services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at no charge. Please contact our staff for assistance.

