

**Here are some important questions for you to ask about your medication:**

- What is the name of the medication?
- Why am I taking it?
- How often and when should I take the medication?
- What effect will it have on me?
- Are there any side effects?
- Do I have any alternatives?
- How should I store my medication?
- How long should I continue taking it?
- What should I do if I miss a dose?
- Is there anything else I should know?



Photo Gary Bremner

Medication Reconciliation is a tool to safer patient care.

Join us in taking this important step to Patient Safety.

**Some helpful hints for you:**

- If you have any drug allergies, please tell us.
- Make sure you understand the instructions on how to take your medication.
- Don't share your medication with others.
- Check expiry dates. Return extra or outdated medication to your pharmacist.
- Use the same pharmacy for all your prescriptions.
- Before you use an over the counter medication or herbal product, make sure it is safe to use with your prescription medications. Ask your pharmacist.
- Keep a current list of all your medications and carry it in your wallet or purse.

**Medication information is yours for the asking.**

Ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse any questions you may have about your medications.

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**For information:**

Monday to Friday • 8 am to 4 pm  
Pharmacy Department  
Whitehorse General Hospital  
867-393-8737

# Medication Safety and you



Cover photo: www.archbould.com

Knowing about your medication will help you take an active role in your health care.



yukon hospital corporation

Talk • Ask • Listen • Know

# Medication Safety and you

Medications are an important part of your treatment.

**When it comes to medication safety, you should know as much as possible about your medications.**

You should specifically learn the names of your medications and why you are taking them. It helps both you and your health care providers in preventing errors.

Health care providers are responsible for ensuring that you receive the safest care possible.

The **Medication Reconciliation** process is one of the ways that ensures that you are treated with the correct medications. You play a very important role in this process.

## What is Medication Reconciliation?

**Medication Reconciliation** is a process of ensuring that all health care providers are aware of the medications you are taking. It also ensures that decisions to continue, change, or discontinue your medications are communicated to you and your health care provider.

## Where and when does Medication Reconciliation occur?

**In the hospital, the reconciliation of medications taken at home will occur at all transition points** such as at admission, transfer, and at discharge. In the home care setting, the **Medication Reconciliation** occurs with each visit.

## How is the Medication Reconciliation process carried out?

The **Medication Reconciliation** process is carried out by first obtaining the best possible medication history. **This is done by reviewing all your home medications with you or your family.** The doctor, nurse or pharmacist will ask you how you take your medications and will verify the information with your local pharmacy.

Your medication list is then reviewed by the doctor. This list is used as a reference for accurate information when prescribing medications and making changes.

**Please bring the following each time you visit the hospital:**

- **All of your medications from home, in their original containers, including:**
  - prescriptions
  - over-the-counter medications
  - vitamins
  - supplements
  - herbal medicines
  - inhalers
  - nose sprays
  - eye/ear drops
  - patches
  - injections
  - medicated creams and lotions
  - birth control pills
  - dialysis solutions
  - etc.
- **An up-to-date list of all your medications, with the dose, when you need to take it and what you take it for.**

