

New Medications/Prescriptions...What to ask

- When you healthcare provider orders new medication, ask these questions:
- What's this medication's name or names? (Most have a generic and a brand name)
- Why are you giving me this medication?
- What dose do I take and how often do I take it? What if I miss a dose?
- Should I follow special instructions for taking this medicine, such as taking with food or avoiding certain foods?
- How will I know if this medicine is working?
- What side effects can I expect and which ones should I report to the health care provider? What should I do if I have any of these problems?
- Are any risks associated with this medicine?
- How long will I need to take this medicine?
- Will my health care insurance pay for this medicine? If not, how much will it cost?

More about medications:

- Keep taking the medication until the doctor tells you to stop
- Talk to the doctor about any problems with your medicine
- Store medicines away from the reach of children
- Keep medicine in the bottle that it came in
- Store medicines in a cool, dry place, away from heat and bright light
- Keep a list of the medicines that you are allergic to and always share it with your physicians and pharmacist
- Don't give any of your medicines to anyone and don't take anyone else's medicines