

Bringing your medicines into hospital before surgery

If you are regularly using medication including tablets, inhalers, patches, injections, eye drops or creams prescribed by your own doctor, please take these with you when you come into hospital. Please also bring medication you buy from your local pharmacy. You should bring enough supply to last for 5 to 7 days. You will be given a **green bag** at pre-op clinic – use this green bag to take your medicines into hospital with you.

It's **really important** to bring your medicines in their original packaging, with the pharmacy label attached stating the name and dose of the medicine, and how often to take it. This is to allow pharmacy, nursing, midwifery and medical staff to correctly identify your medicines.

Please do not decant your medicines into a dosette box, or into another container.

If you get your medicines in a pre-made 'blister pack' from your community pharmacy, please ensure that all of the pharmacy labels are attached to the blister pack. This is to allow pharmacy, nursing, midwifery and medical staff to correctly identify your medicines.

In addition to the medicines themselves, it's also very helpful if you bring an up-to-date list of all your medications, including details such as the dose and the time(s) of day they are taken. If you only take your medication on specific days, write this down (e.g. once a week on a Sunday). A GP repeat medication slip is a good source of this information.

On the medication list that you bring in, it is useful if you also list any **drug allergies** you have, as well as the nature of the allergic reaction (e.g. rash, breathing difficulties).

If you have a special card with details of any treatment, such as blood thinners or injections, bring this with you too.

On the ward, there are safe drug storage lockers by your bed where we will store your medication during your stay. We will add any newly prescribed medication to your locker

while you are in hospital and give you a supply to take home. You will also take home the remainder of any medication you originally brought in.

Please make sure you have enough of your regular medication at home for after your procedure. This may require you to plan ahead and order your medication from your GP/collect it from your usual community pharmacy prior to coming into hospital. This means you won't have to worry about ongoing medication supply while you are recovering.

This all helps to make sure you receive the best care. Bringing your own medication into hospital is very helpful and can reduce the time you wait for your medication prior to discharge.

Medication check list for coming into hospital

Use this checklist to make sure you have everything you need before coming into hospital. Tick the box when you have completed the action:

- A 5 to 7 day supply of all regular medications – such as tablets, patches, injections, eye drops and creams.
- All regular medications are in their original packaging with pharmacy dispensing label attached, or in a pharmacy prepared 'blister pack' with pharmacy dispensing labels attached (please do not decant your medication into a dosette box or another container).
- A list of all regular medications, including doses and when they are taken e.g. GP repeat slip.
- Details of any drug allergies, including the nature of the reaction.
- A supply of regular medicines at home, for after your surgery/procedure.

This leaflet can be made available in different formats on request. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments about the content of this leaflet, then please contact the Patient Experience Team on 0151 702 4353 or by email at pals@lwh.nhs.uk

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