

Questions to Ask Your Health Care Provider When You Receive a New Medication

Document your provider's answers using this form during your appointment.

What is the name of this medication and why are you prescribing it for me?

When and how do I take this medication?

How long do I take this medication for?

Does this medication contain anything I am allergic to?

Should I avoid alcohol or any foods while I am taking this medication?

Do any of my other medications interact with this medication?

Which side effects should I be watching out for? What should I do if I experience one or more those side effects?

Is it safe to become pregnant and/or breastfeed while taking this medication?

How should the medication be stored? (for example: store in refrigerator or away from sunlight)

What should I do if I miss a dose of this medication?

Important Points to Keep in Mind

Ask questions until you feel comfortable with your medication plan.

If something doesn't seem right or a medication you have been taking doesn't look the same when you pick up a refill, talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your questions before you take it.

If you experience unwanted symptoms when taking your medications, let your health care provider know.

Do not be afraid to tell your provider that you haven't been taking a medication. It is more important that they know what is, or is not, in your body when they are making decisions about what medications to prescribe.