

10. If the medicine's instructions do not match with what your child was taking before and you do not know why, check with your doctor or nurse to see why there has been a change. It may be a mistake.

11. Ask your pharmacist or nurse for the best way to measure your child's liquid medicine. A household teaspoon often does not hold the correct measure and may result in under or over treatment of your child. Special devices are available like oral syringes to help people measure the right dose. Ask your pharmacist to show you how to use this device.

12. Store medicines out of reach of children, in a locked cupboard. Most medicines should not be kept in the fridge. Only keep medicines in the fridge if the pharmacist says to do this. Medicines which need to be in the fridge should be kept on the top shelf at the back. Ask your pharmacist for child lock lids for all medicines you have in your house

- **Be actively involved in your child's health care.**
- **Get information that you can understand.**
- **Speak up if you have any questions or concerns.**

Your doctors, nurses and pharmacists work hard to ensure that the care they deliver is the very best for your child but you can also help with this for your child.

Parent's Information Medication Safety

Help us to help your child



12 tips for parents/carers to
prevent errors occurring
with medicines



If you would like more information about Medication Safety within ADHB contact:

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Being Safe with Medicines

Starship Children's Health and Newborn Services are committed to promoting the safe use of medicines and actively tries to prevent medication errors from happening.

Unfortunately, errors with medicines do happen. They can happen in hospitals, at the GP's clinic, at the pharmacy and even in your own home. Sometimes these errors can cause harm.



It is important for parents and caregivers to know about any medicines your child is taking. It's also important that your child knows about them too. Knowing about your medicines means that you and your child can help us to prevent errors occurring with medicines.

What can you do?

1. **Tell the doctors about every medicine your child is taking at home.** This includes any vitamins, minerals, herbal or homeopathic remedies, traditional medicines that your child receives with or without a prescription. Knowing what medicines your child takes assists in your child getting quality and appropriate care.

2. **Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you are breastfeeding your baby and taking medicines.** This is to check that it is safe for your baby to receive your breast milk.

3. **Tell the doctor, nurse or pharmacist about any allergies your child may have and how your child reacts to medicines.** This can help your child avoid getting a medicine that could cause harm.

4. **Know your child's current weight.** The dose of your child's medicine may depend on his or her weight so it is important to have accurate information about your child.

5. **Never give any medicines or alternative treatments to your child while they are in hospital without checking with a doctor, pharmacist or nurse first.** All medicines given in hospital must be checked to ensure that they can all go together without causing any problems for your child. It is also important that the nurses know every time you give a medicine to your child so that it is recorded in your child's notes. This is to prevent a medicine being given incorrectly to your child.

6. **Always ask when a medicine is being given to your child, whether it is for your child and what it is.** This is to ensure that the right child gets the right medicine. Your child's identity must be checked every time a medicine is given by nursing staff.

7. **Ask for information about your child's medicines from your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.** Some questions to ask:

- What is the name of the medicine?
- What is the medicine for?
- Is this dose of medicine appropriate for my child based on his or her weight?
- How often is my child supposed to take it and for how long?
- What side effects could occur? What do I do if they occur?
- Is this medicine safe for my child to take with other medicines or supplements?
- What food, drink, and activities should my child avoid while taking this medicine?
- How should I store this medicine?
- When should I see an improvement in my child?

Knowing this information means you will be better prepared if something unexpected happens to your child. That way, you can report any problems right away and get help before it gets worse.

8. **When you receive a prescription for your child, make sure you can read it and know what is on it.** If you cannot read the doctor's handwriting, your pharmacist might not be able to either.

9. **Medicine labels can be hard to understand.** If you have any questions about the directions on your child's medicine labels, always ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before you take the medicine home. For example, ask if taking four doses daily means taking a dose every 6 hours around the clock or when your child is awake.