

Discuss the Benefits and Risks of Prescription Medicines

Before you take a prescription medicine, ask your healthcare provider the following questions. Always keep an updated medication list with you.

1. What is the name of the medicine, and what is it for?

2. How and when do I take it, and for how long?

3. What side effects should I expect, and what should I do about them?

4. Should I take this medicine on an empty stomach or with food?

5. Should I avoid any activities, foods, drinks, alcohol or other medicines while taking this prescription?

6. Should I take the medication in the morning or the evening?

7. Will this medicine work safely with other medicines I'm taking, including over-the-counter medicines?

8. When should I expect the medicine to begin to work, and how will I know if it's working?

9. How should I store this medicine?

10. Is there any additional written information I should read about the medicine?

Always follow up with your healthcare provider if you still have questions or concerns about your medicine.



NCPIE wishes to acknowledge that this work was supported by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research under grant number 5U18FD004653. The content is solely the responsibility of NCPIE and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Food and Drug Administration.



Before you begin taking a new prescription medication, make sure you understand its benefits and risks.

Tips to Help You Talk With Your Healthcare Provider

- 1 Ask questions about the benefits and potential risks of each medicine you take.
- 2 Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you are taking—including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and dietary supplements. Bring your most current medication list to each visit (see reverse side).
- 3 Tell your healthcare provider about any allergies or sensitivities.
- 4 Read and follow the medicine label and directions.

For more information, visit TalkBeforeYouTake.org.



2800 Clay Edwards Drive
North Kansas City, MO 64116
816.691.2000
nkch.org

Where your care is personal.