

Medication patient information leaflets in multiple languages

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Rationale for the project

- Medication mismanagement
- Medicines information frequently only available in English
- Health information not always understood or retained
- Identified gap in practice
- Generalised medicines information required

Project overview

- Goal: medicines information which can be understood and retained
- One page leaflet in easy to understand language
- Topics:
 - How to take your medicines on discharge from hospital
 - Allergies and adverse drug reactions
 - Pain relief after surgery
 - Taking antibiotics on discharge from hospital
 - Taking anticoagulants on discharge from hospital

Project overview

- VicTAG QUM advisory group
- Consumer engagement
- Interpreted into the top 10 languages in Victoria



VICTORIAN THERAPEUTICS ADVISORY GROUP



How to take medicines

What you need to know about your medicines when you leave the hospital

When you are ready to return home from hospital, the hospital staff will review the medicines that you have been taking and tell you which ones you should take at home.

What do you need to do?

During your time in hospital your medicines may have changed. You might need to take some new medicines. Some of the medicines you were taking before coming to hospital may have been stopped.

You may receive a list of the medicines you need to take at home before you leave the hospital. The list will tell you how to take them. If you do not receive a list you can make one yourself. The following link can help you:

<https://www.nps.org.au/medical-info/consumer-info/keeping-a-medicines-list>

Please tell your regular GP, community pharmacist and any specialist you are seeing about the changes to your medicines.

How to take your medicines

It is important to follow the directions closely. Do not change the dose (take more or less of the medicine) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist. Do not stop taking a medicine unless you have been told to by a doctor or a pharmacist. Always ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Never take a medicine that was prescribed for someone else, and don't give your medicines to anyone else.

Medicines you brought in with you

If you brought medicines with you into hospital they will be returned to you when you leave. If some of the medicines you brought in are no longer suitable for you, hospital staff may dispose of your unwanted medicines with your permission.

New medicines

If you need any new medicines they may be provided for you by the hospital, or you may be given a prescription which you can take to your local pharmacy after you leave the hospital. If you need to keep taking your medicine, make an appointment to get a new prescription from your GP before they run out. Take the new prescription to your regular pharmacy.

Looking after your medicines

Keep your medicines in a dry, cool place that is out of reach of children and pets. Keep your medicines in their original containers. The labels contain important information.

For more information

You may find useful information in your language on the following website:
<http://www.nps.org.au/translated-health-information-about-medicines>

Developed in consultation with..

Planned results

- Patient satisfaction surveys
- Improve medication compliance and medication safety
- Reduce the need for VicTAG member health services to create leaflets
- Possibility of expanding project

References

- Roughead L, Semple S, Rosenfeld E. Literature Review: Medication Safety in Australia. ACSQHC 2013.
- Hilton K AA. IHI Psychology of Change Framework to Advance and Sustain Improvement. Institute for Healthcare Improvement 2018