

Patient Education Sheet

**Frequently Asked Questions About Medications Prescribed
While in the Hospital**

It is important for you to know that sometimes the medications that you receive in the hospital are different than the medications you take at home.



Here are some common questions that patients ask regarding their prescribed medications during their hospital stay:

“While I was in the hospital they prescribed something for me that I have never heard of before. They said it replaced my Lipitor. Why would they do that?”

There are many medications available that have similar actions. Because of this, it is necessary for hospitals to simplify what medications are carried by their pharmacies. Your physician and the hospital pharmacist will work

together to decide what replacement medications will be ordered for you while at the hospital if we do not carry the same brand that you take at home.

“So when I go home, will I have to take this new drug?”



You will receive a list of medications before you leave the hospital. Once you are home, you may restart many of the same medications... or your physician may make changes. You should discuss your medication list prior to discharge with your Physician or nurse.

“As well as my regular medication, I am taking a bunch of vitamins and herbal products at home. You don’t need to know about those, do you?”

It is very important that you give your physician a complete list of all the medications you are taking including vitamins, dietary or herbal products. Some of these medications and products can interact with medications that your physician may prescribe. He/She may decide to “hold or stop” some of those medications while you are in the hospital.

“Are there times when patients are permitted to use their own medication?”

Most of the time you cannot bring in your own medication.

If it is determined that a specific medication is medically necessary during your hospital stay and is not available in the hospital, you may be permitted to use your own medication. In this situation, the patient must arrange for someone to bring in the medication in its original labeled prescription bottle.

The hospital pharmacist must be able to identify the drug as labeled. It will be stored with your other medications at the nursing station and it will be given to you by the nurse at the time ordered.

Your Safety and Health are very important to the hospital staff. If you have any questions or concerns about your medications, please feel free to discuss them with your physician.

