

Your Questions Answered

Questions you can't go wrong

Your pharmacist is the best source of information on how to get the most from your medicines. And here are some evergreen questions you can pose to your pharmacists during your next visit.

Does this medication contain anything that can cause an allergic reaction?

If you always use the same pharmacy, the pharmacist will keep your medication history and can help you avoid allergic reactions to the drug or to inactive ingredients in your medications.

How long should I take it?

Serious problems may result from not taking all your medication or by continuing medications too long. Your doctor should indicate the length of time with your prescription order. Ask your pharmacist about non-prescription medicines.

Should I avoid alcohol, any other medications, foods, or activities?

Your prescription and nonprescription medications may interact with other drugs causing a harmful effect. Certain foods or alcohol may also interact with drug products. Never begin taking a new medication, prescription or non-prescription, without asking your pharmacist if it will interact with alcohol, foods or other medicines. Some drug products can cause drowsiness and may affect activities such as driving.



Should I expect any side effects?

All medications can cause side effects, but they are not necessarily serious. Your pharmacist and health care provider can help you anticipate and understand these side effects and help you deal with them. If you experience unexplained side effects, contact your health care provider or pharmacist.

Is there a generic version of the medication my doctor has prescribed?

Your pharmacist can tell you if there is an approved generic version of your medication. Not all prescription medicines have generic counterparts. Generic medicines are usually less expensive than their brandname counterparts.

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

Women should consider the possible effects of medications on an unborn child or a nursing baby. Some drugs cause no problems, but others can cause birth defects when the mother takes them early in pregnancy. Also, some drugs pass through a mother's system into breast milk. Therefore, expectant and nursing mothers should ask their pharmacist or doctor before using any prescription or nonprescription medications. **OH!**