

Drug Interactions and Adverse Drug Events

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What is an adverse drug event?

Term to describe the unwanted, negative effects associated with the use of medications

Common Term: “Side Effects”

How to detect potential problems with your medications

1) Understand your medications

Things you should know about your medications

- Name
- Use
- How often should I take it?
- Can I take it with food?
- Where should I store it?
- How long should I take it?
- What do I do about a missed dose?
- Is it working?
- Adverse Drug Events
- Drug interactions

2) Ask your doctor and pharmacist

3) Question things that don't sound right

4) Question when medications look different

5) When in doubt, ask again

What is a Drug Interaction?

An interaction with a medication that causes an unwanted effect

Types of Drug Interactions:

Drug – Drug Interactions

Drug – Food Interactions

Drug – Nutritional Supplement Interactions

Drug – Disease Interactions

What can you do?

- 1) Every doctor should know all of your medications (including over the counter and herbal) before prescribing another medication

Create a list with all of your health information: (see example)

- Physicians
- Pharmacy
- Disease states
- Allergies
- Medications

- 2) Ask Questions!!!!

- Why do I need to take this medication?
- How do I take this medication?
- How long should I take this medication?
- What are the side effects?
- Does it interact with any of my other medications?
- Are there any other special instructions?
- Is there any monitoring required?

3) Go to one Pharmacy

Ask your pharmacist to check for drug interactions

Other Questions to ask your Pharmacist:

- Is there written information about my medication? Can I get it in large print or another language if necessary?
- Ask your pharmacist anything else you forgot to ask your doctor
- How and where should I store my medication?

Example list

Marlea Wellein
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Home Phone 843-555-0822
Birth date 07/11/1940

Doctors:

Internist

Dr. Way
MUSC UDC Clinic - 843-555-1234

Gastroenterologist

Dr. Messer
MUSC clinic - 843-555-3425

Cardiologist

Dr. Heaster
MUSC Clinic - 843-555-7922

Pharmacy

CVS pharmacy
111 Calhoun St
Phone 843-555-8796

Medical History

Diabetes (diagnosed 1995)
High blood pressure (diagnosed 1980)
Heart failure (diagnosed 2000)
GERD (diagnosed 2001)
Lower back pain (?)

Allergies

Penicillin caused me to have hives

Medication List

Benazepril (Lotensin®) 10 mg daily

Furosemide (Lasix®) 40 mg daily

Metoprolol XL (Toprol XL®) 100 mg daily

Metformin (Glucophage®) 500 mg twice daily

Glipizide XL (Glucotrol XL®) 10 mg daily

Aspirin 325 mg daily

Pantoprazole (Protonix®) 40 mg daily

Centrum® daily

Maalox® as needed for stomach upset

Advil® and Tylenol® as needed for lower back pain