

Medication Guide

Sometimes the way to become more healthy is by taking medications. If your doctor prescribes a medication there are many things you should know before starting a new drug.

Some questions to ask:

- What is the name of the medication-how much, how often, how long and when should you take it? Should it be taken with food? How should it be stored?
- Are there things (alcohol, grapefruit) or other drugs, herbs or supplements you should avoid while you are taking the drug?
- What are the side effects? What is the most dangerous side effect? When and how should you report the side effect to your medical providers?
- What should you do if you miss a dose?
- How long will it take before the medication will start to work?

If you cannot afford the medicine, tell your doctor – Some doctors have free samples. Some medications cost less than others – see the HCV Fact Sheet: “Being an Effective Consumer: Tips for Lowering Prescription Drugs Costs.”

Remember.....

- ◆ If you can't read your doctor's handwriting on a prescription, your pharmacist might not be able to either. Ask your doctor to tell you what everything says on the prescription and write it down.
- ◆ When you get your prescription filled at the pharmacy, compare the drug's label with what you have written in your own handwriting. Both should be the same. If they are different, talk to your pharmacist first. If this doesn't clear up the problem, call your doctor's office.

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