

BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR PHARMACIST

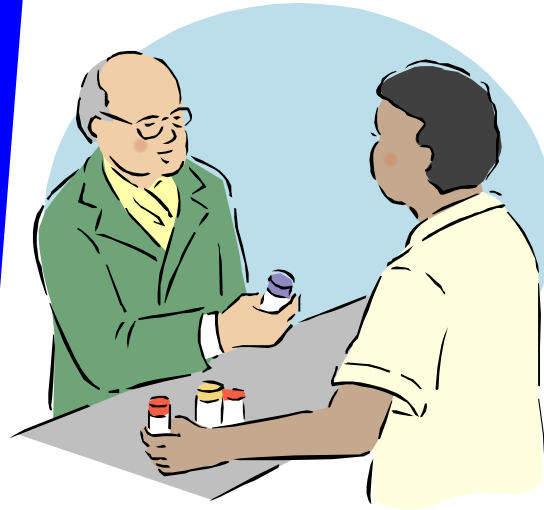
Always visit the same pharmacy so a record of your prescriptions is in one place. The better your pharmacist knows you, the better he or she will be able to help you make the best choices where your health is concerned.

Your pharmacist:

- ◆ is your medication expert
- ◆ monitors your drug therapy
- ◆ checks your prescription to make sure the drug, dose and instructions are best for you
- ◆ gives advice on ways to relieve your symptoms without using drugs
- ◆ helps you choose nonprescription medication or health care products
- ◆ offers advice and information on a wide variety of health issues
- ◆ works closely with your doctor
- ◆ keeps a computer record of all your prescription medications



Pharmacy



**Pharmacist Awareness Week
March 1-6**

Supported by:



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**YOUR PHARMACIST IS A
MEDICATION EXPERT
AND IS HERE TO HELP
YOU.**

**How Your
Pharmacist
Works for
You**



WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY A DISPENSING FEE?

This professional fee is how the pharmacist is paid for his or her service to you.

After receiving your prescription, the pharmacist:

- ◆ checks and updates your personal medication record
- ◆ checks the prescription
- ◆ checks how much medicine you are supposed to take
- ◆ checks for possible side effects
- ◆ checks for possible reactions between your medicine and other medicines or food
- ◆ calls your doctor if there are any questions
- ◆ checks for information you need to know
- ◆ prepares the medicine for you
- ◆ processes the cost of the medicine through your personal or government payment plan, if required
- ◆ gives you advice on how to take the medicine

A small fee covers all these professional services.



HOW DOES THE PHARMACIST HELP ME?

The pharmacist protects your health by keeping a confidential, personal record of the prescription medicines you've received from that pharmacy. Why? There are thousands of medications available today:

- ◆ some medicines cannot be taken with other medicines, supplements or with certain foods
- ◆ some medicines cannot be taken if you have allergies
- ◆ some medicines should be taken on an empty stomach and others with a meal
- ◆ some medicines need to be stored in the refrigerator

Your pharmacist knows what to do and will help you. When you visit the same pharmacy, your pharmacist gets to know you and builds your personal medication record. Your pharmacist checks your record to give you important information on how to take your medicines. Your health depends on it! Your pharmacist can also help you manage such conditions as asthma or diabetes and can offer information on vitamins and herbal remedies.

WHAT OTHER SERVICES CAN I EXPECT FROM MY PHARMACIST?

Ask your pharmacist for:

- ◆ advice on medication prescribed by your doctor
- ◆ help in choosing other medicines like cold remedies, pain relievers, vitamins or sunscreens
- ◆ information on products such as home pregnancy and glucose tests or anti-smoking aids

YOUR PHARMACIST HAS ANSWERS

Whether you are filling a prescription or choosing over-the-counter medicine to treat an illness, never leave the pharmacy before you know the answers to all your questions.

These might include:

- ◆ Why am I taking this medicine and how do I take it?
- ◆ How will I know if this medicine is working?
- ◆ When will I feel better?
- ◆ What side effects might I experience? What should I do?
- ◆ When should I see my doctor?
- ◆ What should I do if I miss a dose?
- ◆ Where should I store my medicine?
- ◆ What foods, alcohol or other drugs should I avoid while taking this?
- ◆ How will I remember to take my medicine?
- ◆ Will this medicine make me drowsy?
- ◆ Can I take this medicine if I am pregnant or breastfeeding?
- ◆ I'm taking three other medications. Is it okay to take this, too?
- ◆ Is "four times a day" the same as "once every six hours"?
- ◆ Is there a less expensive medicine I might use instead?
- ◆ Am I using my inhaler properly?
- ◆ Can I get my medicine in a container that is easier to open?
- ◆ Is there another medicine I could take that would be easier for me to swallow?
- ◆ Which is the best nonprescription medicine for my symptoms?