

## ASK YOUR PHARMACIST

Your pharmacist is your medication expert and can provide advice and information on a wide range of health issues.

# Seamless Care

“Seamless care” is an important health care term that affects you and your family’s health. It refers to the continuous, uninterrupted care delivered to patients by pharmacists and other health care providers when moving between different environments; for example, when a patient is discharged home from the hospital.



Today, Canadians are discharged from hospital much more quickly than they were a few years ago. A shorter hospital stay means that patients must take more responsibility for their own care.

Whether you’re in hospital, at home, in a nursing home, or in the process of moving from one to another, it’s good to know that your pharmacist — the drug expert — is involved in your care, making sure you get the most from your medications.

### Your Community Pharmacist

As the most accessible health care provider, your community pharmacist is there to:

- ◆ work with other health care professionals to manage your condition when you have been discharged from the hospital
- ◆ help you understand what your medications are for, how and when to take them, and how they will work
- ◆ review all of your medications to make sure none of them interact or cause unnecessary side effects.

### Your Hospital Pharmacist

As an important part of the health care team, your hospital pharmacist is there to:

- ◆ monitor your drug therapy to ensure that it’s safe and effective while you’re in the hospital
- ◆ work with you and your health care team to make sure you receive the best results from your medication
- ◆ talk to your community pharmacist about the drugs that you’re taking in order to provide a “seamless” flow of information.

### Take part in seamless care!

If you are going to the hospital:

- ◆ Ask for a list of prescription medications you are taking from your community pharmacist.
- ◆ Make sure the list shows the dosage of the drugs, how and when to take them, and add any herbal or nonprescription medications that you may be taking.
- ◆ Bring the list to the hospital and present it to admissions so they can place it on your chart.

If you are being discharged from the hospital:

- ◆ Ask to talk with the pharmacist to make sure you understand how to take your medication before being discharged.
- ◆ Be certain about whether you are to continue taking the medications you were taking before your admission to hospital.

### Seamless care benefits you by:

- ◆ avoiding medication errors
- ◆ reducing drug-related admissions to the hospital
- ◆ enhancing the relationship between you and your health care providers
- ◆ improving the overall quality of your health care.

**For more information  
ASK YOUR PHARMACIST!**

**ASK YOUR PHARMACIST** is provided by your pharmacist and the Canadian Pharmacists Association ©2004

