

Medications

Medication Types

Liquids

- Liquid medicine should be measured exactly using an oral syringe, medicine cup or measuring spoon from your pharmacy or hospital, not a regular spoon.

Tablets/Capsules/Pills

- Always check with your healthcare provider or pharmacist before crushing or dissolving pills.
- To crush a pill it is easiest to use a pill crusher.
- You may try to break a pill in half. Smaller pieces may be easier for a child to swallow than a larger pill. You may use a pill cutter.

Eye Medications: Drops and Ointments

- Place the infant or small child lying down on his/her back. The older child may sit up with head tilted back.
- Ask the child to look up.
- Use one hand to pull the lower lid down, making a little “cup” and apply the solution or ointment into the “cup”.
- Keep the medication clean. Do not touch the tip of the bottle or tube with your hands or touch to the child's eyes.
- If possible, give eye ointments before bedtime or at naptime, since the child's vision will be blurred for a while.

Ear Drops

- Keep your child lying flat with head turned for approximately 2 minutes to allow the medicine to enter deep into the ear.
- If the child is less than 3 years old, gently pull the ear back and down while placing the drops in the ear.
- Children older than 3 years should have their ear gently pulled up and back while getting their ear drops.

Subcutaneous Injection

- A subcutaneous injection is given using a small needle placed under the skin. If your child requires a subcutaneous injection, you may be taught the technique so that you can give them to your child.

Rectal Medications

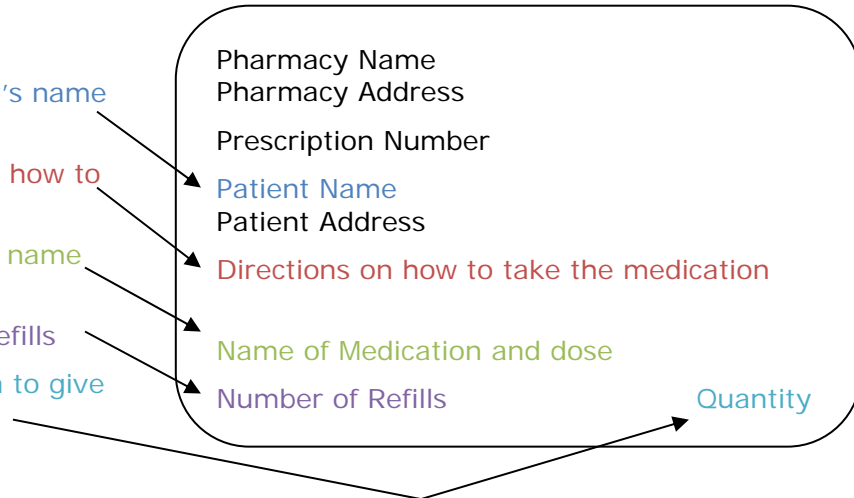
Medicines are not given rectally during treatment.

Medications

Reading a Prescription Label

It is important to always read the prescription label carefully every time you pick up your medications from the pharmacy. If you have any questions or concerns ask your pharmacist.

- Make sure the patient's name is correct
- Read directions about how to take the medication
- Check the medication name and concentration
- Check the bottle for refills
- Amount of medication to give



Refilling your Medication

Always read the label each time you refill your prescription.

- Ask about refills during your regular appointments.
- If refills are available and you need more medication, call your pharmacy.
- Remember to call for a refill before you run out of medication. Refills may take 48 hours.
- If you do not have refills of a medication you need during regular clinic hours, call the Jimmy Fund Clinic at least 48 hours before your child will need to have their medication refilled and ask to be transferred to the prescription refill line. Leave a message with:
 - your name
 - your child's name
 - a call back number
 - which medication needs to be refilled
 - the location and phone number of your pharmacy
- If you do not have refills of a medication, and you have an urgent need after clinic hours, page the pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call.

General Information:

- If your child has a life-threatening allergy, he/she should wear allergy identification at all times.

Medications

- Keep all medicine out of the reach of children and pets.
- Many medications interact with other medications. Keep a list of all your child's medicines (prescription, herbal medicines, natural products, supplements, vitamins, over-the-counter) with you. Give this list to your child's healthcare provider (doctor, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist, physician assistant).
- Talk with your child's healthcare provider before giving him/her any new medicine, including over-the-counter, herbal medicines, natural products, or vitamins.
- All patients are strongly urged to use birth control if engaging in sexual activity. Talk to your health care provider as some chemotherapy medications may cause birth defects or decrease your ability to have children.
- An oral dose of medication should be repeated only if a patient vomits within 30 minutes of taking the drug. If your child vomits more than once during the 30 minutes after taking the medication, call your child's healthcare provider.

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow-on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911