

WHAT YOUR PHARMACIST WANTS YOU TO KNOW ABOUT . . .

PREVENTING MEDICATION ERRORS

Today's medicines are extremely powerful and complex. They can be very helpful when they are used properly. Used improperly, however, they can cause serious harm, even death. Be sure that you are making the best use of your medicines by:

- Keeping a list of all that you take, including prescription drugs, nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal and nutritional supplements.
- Telling your health care provider how you actually take your medication, especially if this is different from the originally prescribed directions.
- Asking if you should avoid certain foods, beverages, other medicines, or activities while you are taking the drug.
- Requesting written information available on the drug product.
- Questioning anything you don't understand or that doesn't seem right. Be especially alert to unexpected changes, such as receiving a prescription refill that seems to have a different strength or appearance from your original prescription. Be sure to report any unexpected side effects that you experience to your physician.
- Showing that you understand how to use your medication by repeating information about your prescription back to your doctor or pharmacist.
- Asking a friend or relative to help you follow these suggestions if you are too ill.



Pharmacists are an important part of your health care team. For more information about what your pharmacist wants you to know, visit www.SafeMedication.com.