

Please help us get the word out... “Know Your Meds”

Improperly using medications can do more harm than good. The statistics are alarming.

Medication errors are estimated to account for at least 7,000 deaths in the United States alone every year.

(Reference : Institute of Medicine website, www.iom.edu ; The Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy's Control in Managed Care website section on medication errors, www.amcp.org)

Over 770,000 patients are estimated to be injured because of medication errors every year.

(Reference : Agency for Health Research and Quality, 2001)

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) in the United States says that at least 1 death occurs per day and 1.3 million people are injured each year due to medication errors.

(Reference : Food and Drug Administration (FDA) website, www.fda.org)

Several studies point to more than 50% of potential and serious adverse events being associated with injectable medications.

(Reference: Kaushal R, Bates DW, Landrigan C, et al. Medication errors and adverse drug events in pediatric inpatients. JAMA 2001; 285:2114-2120.

Thomas EJ, Brennan TA. Incidence and types of preventable adverse events in elderly patients: population based review of medical records. BMF 2000; 320:741-744.)

One 5-year study showed that the most common types of medication errors were a wrong dose, a wrong drug or a wrong route of administration.

(Reference: Phillips J, Beam S, Brinker A, Holquist C, Honig P, Lee LY, Pamer C. Retrospective analysis of mortalities associated with medication errors. Am J Health Syst Pharm. Oct 2001. 58(19):1835-41)

Medication errors occur in nearly 1 out of every 5 doses given to patients in the typical hospital.

(Reference: Barker KN, Flynn EA, Pepper GA, PhD, Bates DW, Mikeal RL. Medication errors observed in 36 health care facilities. Arch Intern Med 2002;162:1897-1903.)

Adverse medication events have been reported and are estimated to occur at a rate of around 5% for admissions and discharges from the typical hospital.

(Reference: Classen DC, Pestonik SL, Evans RS, Lloyd JF, Burke JP. Adverse drug events in hospitalized patients. JAMA 1997; 277:301-306. Lazarou J, Pomeranz BH, Corey PN. Incidence of adverse drug reaction in hospitalized patients. JAMA 1998; 279:1200-1205.)

Many of these errors occur because patients use multiple physicians, multiple pharmacies and do not document all of their medications and the proper dosages. Providers can only work with the information they are given by the patient.

This is why we are asking that you help us in our “**Know Your Meds**” campaign to educate the general public on the importance of having current documentation on all of their medications. The forms that we are providing will be helpful for individuals to record this information and take with them to their physicians, their pharmacies and when entering a hospital or other medical facility.

Know Your Meds
UNIVERSAL MEDICATION FORM

Patient:

1. ALWAYS KEEP THIS FORM WITH YOU. You may want to fold it and keep it in your wallet.
2. Write down all of the medicines you are taking.
3. Take this form to ALL doctor visits, when you go for ALL tests (ex: xrays, labs) and ALL hospital visits.
4. WRITE DOWN ALL CHANGES MADE TO YOUR MEDICINES on this form. If you stop taking a certain medicine draw a line through it and write the date it was stopped. If help is needed, ask your Doctor, Nurse, Pharmacist, or family member to help you fill out this form and keep it up-to-date.

HOW DOES THIS FORM HELP YOU?

1. This form helps you and your family members **remember** all of the **medicines you are taking**.
2. It provides your doctor(s) and other healthcare providers with a **current list of ALL of your medicines**.
3. **IT CAN PREVENT MISTAKES!** It can possibly help prevent mistakes by knowing what medicines you are currently taking.

For additional copies, you will find this form on the Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center website: www.cprmc.com or you can call Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center Community Relations Department, 843-339-4563.

