

MEDICATION HANDLING AND STORAGE

Introduction

You have received your first delivery of medication(s) and a pharmacy staff member has explained how to use the medication, but safe handling and storage of medications can still be very confusing. This booklet is intended to give you general information about how to safely handle and store medications as well as how to report issues with your medication deliveries. You can receive the most specific information by contacting our pharmacy's office.

General Handling and Storage Information

- Some medications have special handling instructions. Check medication labels carefully to ensure they are handled and stored correctly.
- If the label states that the medication should be refrigerated, place it in a clean area of your refrigerator immediately upon receiving it so the medication will remain stable until used. Avoid storing medications in the warmest (the door) and coldest (bottom shelf or by air vent) areas of the refrigerator. The upper shelves are usually constant in temperature depending on your refrigerator model.
- If the label states that the medication should be frozen, place it in a clean area of your freezer immediately upon receiving so the medication will remain stable until used. Avoid storing medications in the door shelving.
- If the label states the medication should be stored at room temperature, store medications in a clean area away from areas that would cause it to call out of the 68F-77F range. The problematic locations could be but not limited to the following: HVAC air vents that supply cool or heated air, kitchen, windows, doors, fireplaces, TVs, portable equipment (heaters, fans, air conditioners, humidifiers), garages, laundry rooms, etc.
- Follow your pharmacist's instructions for removing the medication from the refrigerator or freezer when it's time for your next dose.
- Medications have an expiration date that represent it is not safe to use. Check medication labels, "use by", and "do not use after" dates carefully and medications that will expire the soonest, first.
- **DO NOT** use any medication that has expired. Alert your pharmacy for any medication that is close to expiring or has expired.
- Some medications are considered hazardous and must be handled with special care. You may need to use gloves when handling the medication. Follow recommendations and instructions provided by your pharmacist.
- All medications should be kept out of reach of children and pets.

MEDICATION HANDLING AND STORAGE

Important Information about Shipped Medications

- The pharmacy will ship/deliver medications to arrive prior to your scheduled dose. If your shipment/delivery is delayed or not received at the expected time, immediately contact the pharmacy. If necessary, a replacement shipment/delivery will be arranged so you are able to continue the medication as directed by the prescriber.
- Whenever possible, and as directed by the pharmacy, someone should be at home to receive your medication delivery as it should not be left on the porch or steps for extended amount of time. Follow any instructions on the outside of the shipping container, as some medications need to be refrigerated or frozen immediately upon receipt.
- The medication cooler will have a temperature monitoring strip inside the shipping container. Follow the instructions provided and notify the pharmacy if the medication arrives too warm or the strip indicates an out-of-range issue.

Special Handling and Storage Instructions

Shown below are special handling and storage instructions your pharmacy would like you to know: