

Commonly Asked Questions

What medications should I bring to hospital?

Bring all of your medications. This includes prescription medicines, those purchased without a prescription such as herbal and alternative remedies. It is important we know what you were taking.

I have been started on insulin and am not confident about using it. What can I do?

There are many things you need to know about using insulin and how to manage your diabetes. Let a member of staff know and we can arrange for you to be seen by a pharmacist, dietician or make a referral to a diabetic educator.

I was started on a blood thinner. How do I take it and what do I need to know?

If you are on a blood thinner (anticoagulant) and have never received counselling with a pharmacist about this, please ask to speak to the pharmacist.

How do I manage my strong pain relievers after discharge?

Your strong pain relievers may be gradually weaned off after discharge. Ask to speak to a pharmacist about what to expect.

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HammondCare Pharmacy



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HammondCare Pharmacy

HammondCare Pharmacy Department is committed to providing a patient centred service. We are part of the healthcare team responsible for medication management. Our goal is to ensure the safe and effective use of medication throughout the hospital.

How we can help you

We understand that your stay in hospital can be stressful. You may have questions about medications that have been started, stopped or changed. You may be concerned about what the medications are for and how they affect you. Ask to speak to a pharmacist. We can help answer your medication questions.

What to expect during your admission

When you arrive at the hospital, your medications will be reviewed and prescribed by a doctor.

A pharmacist will check your medication history and confirm that your regular medications have been prescribed. Any difference is followed up with the doctor.

We will ask about your

- Allergies
- Local pharmacy
- Use of medications at home
- Use of complimentary medicines
- Use of medication aids and devices
- Whether you have trouble swallowing medications

If you have problems with your medications, with remembering to take them or their cost, let us know.

During your admission, a pharmacist will review your medication chart on an ongoing basis. Nurses will prepare and give you your medications. If you have any concerns about being given an unusual looking medication or number of medications, please check with your nurse before taking it. If you experience any unwanted effect from the medication, please immediately tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

Medication supply

We will supply the medications used in hospital at no charge. If we are unable to obtain a medication, we will discuss a solution with you. Do not take your own medications during your stay. You will be asked to hand over your medications to your nurse for safekeeping. Please ask for them back before discharge.

Community Care

A pharmacist can give you written information about each of your medications. We will provide an individualised medication list explaining what medications you take, how to take it and what it is for. We will answer any question you have about your medications. If necessary, we can liaise with your community pharmacist.

On discharge we will dispense a 3 day supply of medication if we are unable to provide you with a prescription to be filled at your local pharmacy. You will need to arrange ongoing supplies with your family doctor.

Before you leave it is very important that you understand what medications have been started, stopped or had the dose changed.

