

Ask your pharmacist or nurse for the best way to measure your child's liquid medicine.

A household teaspoon often does not hold the correct measure and may result in under or over treatment of your child. Special devices like oral syringes are available to help you measure the right dose. Ask your pharmacist to show you how to use this device.

Store medicines out of reach of children, in a locked cupboard.

Most medicines should not be kept in the fridge. Only keep medicines in the fridge if the pharmacist says to do so. Medicines which need to be in the fridge should be kept on the top shelf at the back. Ask your pharmacist for child lock lids for all medicines you have in your house

- **Be actively involved in your child's health care.**
- **Get information that you can understand.**
- **Speak up if you have any questions or concerns.**

**We all need to work in partnership to ensure that the care is the very best for your child.**

## Parental Information Medication Safety

**Help us to help your child**



Tips for parents/carers to prevent errors occurring with medicines



If you would like more information about Medication Safety within ADHB contact:

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# Being Safe with Medicines

Starship Children's Health is committed to promoting the safe use of medicines and actively tries to prevent medication errors from happening.

Unfortunately, errors with medicines do happen. They can happen in hospitals, at the GP clinic, at the pharmacy and even in your own home. Sometimes these errors can cause harm.



It is important for parents and caregivers to know about any medicines your child is taking. It's also important that your child knows about them too. Being well informed as an important step towards preventing errors with medicines.

## What can you do?

[Tell the doctors about every medicine your child is taking at home.](#)

This includes any vitamins, minerals, traditional medicines, herbal or homeopathic remedies that your child receives with or without a prescription. Knowing what medicines your child takes assists in your child getting quality and appropriate care.

[Tell the doctor, nurse or pharmacist about any allergies your child may have and how your child reacts to medicines.](#)

This can help us to avoid giving your child a medicine that could cause harm.

[Know your child's current weight.](#)

The dose of your child's medicine may depend on their weight. As your child grows the dose of their medicine may need to be adjusted.

[Never give any medicines or alternative treatments to your child while they are in hospital without checking with a doctor, pharmacist or nurse first.](#)

All medicines given in hospital must be checked to ensure that they won't cause any problems for your child. If the nurses have told you it's OK to self-administer the medicines to your child it is still very important that the nurses know every time you give the medicine so that it is recorded in your child's notes.

[When a medicine is being given to your child you always ask what it is.](#)

This double check will help ensure that your child gets the right medicine. Your child's identity must be checked every time a medicine is given by nursing staff.

[Feel free to ask for information about your child's medicines from your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.](#)

Some questions to ask:

- What is the name of the medicine?
- What is the medicine for?
- Is this dose of medicine appropriate for my child?
- How often is my child supposed to take it and for how long?
- What side effects could occur? What should I do if they occur?
- Is this medicine OK for my child to take with other medicines or supplements?
- What food, drink, and activities should my child avoid while taking this medicine?
- How should I store this medicine?
- When should I see an improvement in my child?

Knowing this information should help you be better prepared if something unexpected happens to your child. That way, you can report any problems right away and get help before it gets worse.

[Medicine labels can be hard to understand.](#)

If you have any questions about the directions on the medicine labels, always ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before you take the medicine home. For example, ask if taking four doses daily means giving a dose every 6 hours around the clock or just when your child is awake.

[If the medicine's instructions do not match with what your child was taking before and you do not know why, check with your doctor or nurse to see why there has been a change.](#)

It may be a mistake.