

## What if I have any questions about my medicines while I'm in hospital?

Please talk to a member of your healthcare team. Your nurse can ask a pharmacist to speak to you about your medicines. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

## What will happen when I go home?

Staff will tell you which medicines you should take when you return home. Your own medicines will be returned to you if they are still part of your treatment plan.

A prescription will be written for any new medicines you will need and can be filled at a pharmacy of your choice. We encourage you to use your regular pharmacy to assist in managing your medicines as much as possible.

Please make sure you update your medicines list with any changes to your medicines when you leave hospital.

## Will I be expected to pay for my medicines?

The usual PBS fees, patient contributions and safety net thresholds will apply to all patients including outpatients, day admissions and patients being discharged.

## What happens to my medicines if I no longer need them?

If you no longer need a medicine when you leave hospital your healthcare team will safely dispose of it for you with your approval.

## Further information

If you have any questions about managing your medicines please contact your local Pharmacy Department or ask a member of your healthcare team.

**If you are in an emergency situation, call 000.**

The Townsville Hospital  
PO Box 670, Townsville QLD 4810  
Ph: 07 4433 1111

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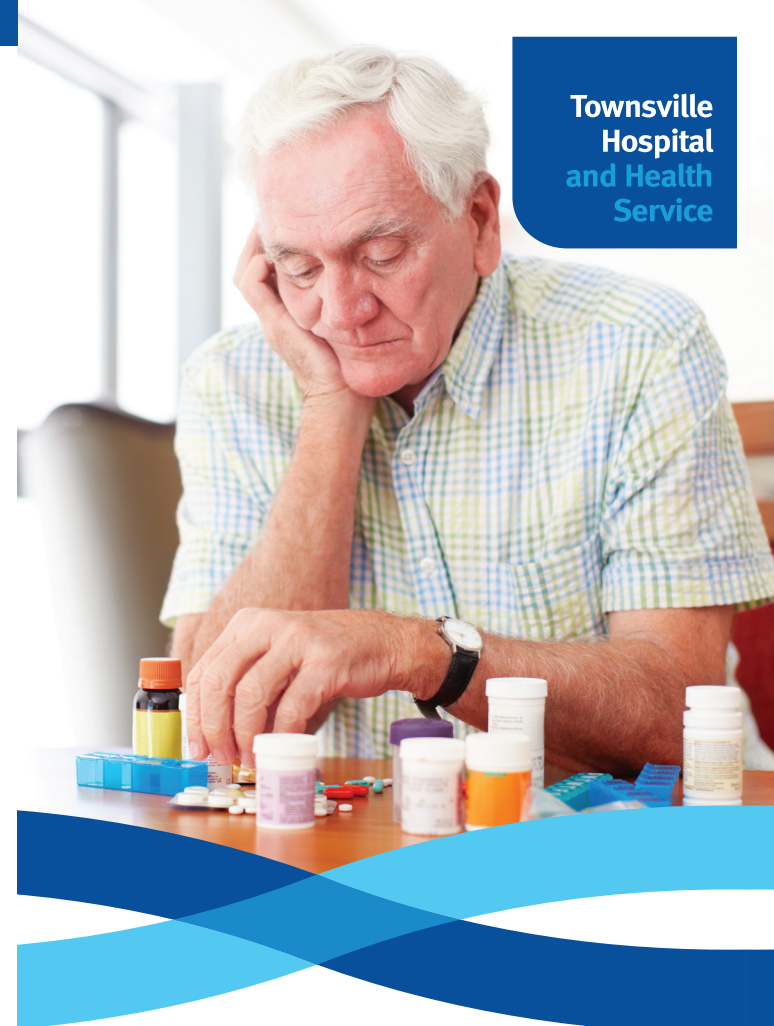


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**Townsville  
Hospital  
and Health  
Service**



# A guide to managing your medicines

A guide for patients and visitors of the  
Townsville Hospital and Health Service



**Queensland  
Government**

## Why should I bring in my own medicines?

Your medicines help our staff to:

- Have a complete and accurate picture of what medicines you are taking
- Make sure that you are provided with the correct medicines in hospital
- Ensure that medicines are available immediately when you need them
- Identify any problems you may be having with your current medicines
- Enable you to take the brand of medicine you are familiar with (where appropriate).

## What medicines do I need to bring?

You should bring all medicines in their original boxes that you have been taking, as well as your **medicines list** (if available). This includes:

- Medicines prescribed by your doctor including inhalers, eye drops and patches
- Medicines you have purchased from a pharmacy or supermarket (e.g. pain relief medicines, cold and flu medicines, creams and lotions etc). You should also bring any complementary and alternative medicines (e.g. medicinal products containing herbs, vitamins, minerals, nutritional supplements, homoeopathic medicines, traditional Chinese medicines, Ayurvedic medicines and Australian Indigenous medicines)
- Clinical Trial/Research Medications
- If you do not have a current medicines list ask your community pharmacist or create your own via the NPS Medicinewise website: **[www.nps.org.au](http://www.nps.org.au)**.

## What is a medicines list?

It is a list of the current medicines you are taking and includes what your medicine is used for, how much you are taking and when you are taking it.

If you take medicines regularly, we recommend that you keep an up-to-date medicines list with you in case of emergency. You should bring this list with you whenever you come to hospital or visit a healthcare professional.

Your hospital pharmacist may assist in providing and updating your medicines list when you are discharged from hospital.

## What if I forget to bring in all my medicines?

Your carer or family may be asked to bring in your medicines if your health care team needs them to ensure your regular medication regime is followed.

Where this is not possible all available medicines will be supplied by the hospital during your stay.

## What will happen to my medicines?

A member of your healthcare team will review your medicines with you to assess what you have been taking and if you have been having any problems with them.

If your medicines are suitable for use during your admission they will be stored securely and a nurse will give them to you at the prescribed time.

## How will my medicines be used while I'm in hospital?

Your medicines may be used while you're in hospital to continue your regular medicine regimen.

Your medicines will only be used with your consent and will never be used for any other patient.

## What if I need new medicines or there are changes to my usual medicines?

Any new medicine commenced during your hospital stay will be supplied by the hospital.

If your dose changes but the medicine remains the same, your medicines may be re-labelled with the new instructions and your medicines list updated.

## What if I run out of my own medicines while in hospital?

If you require more of your current medicines whilst in hospital, the hospital doctor and pharmacy will assist in organising a supply for you. This may include liaising with your community healthcare team such as your family, carer or community pharmacy.

You will need to bring your Medicare card and pension or concession card (including your Safety Net card) into hospital with you.