

10 questions you should ask before giving your child medication

Take this checklist with you to your doctor so you can discuss the medicines he or she prescribes for your child.

1) What is the name of the medication?

Commercial name: _____

Chemical name: _____

2) What is the medication for?

3) How should I administer it?

NOTE: Use a calibrated oral syringe to administer liquid medicine.

Amount: _____

Times per day: _____

With or without food: with food without food

Storage: room temperature refrigerator

4) Is it the typical dose for my child's diagnosis, weight and age?

5) When and how quickly will it work? And how will I know it's working?

6) What common side effects should I look for? And how common are they?

7) What are the serious side effects? And what should I look for?

Contact your doctor right away if: _____

In case of an accidental overdose: _____

8) What are the alternatives to this medication?

9) Is it safe in terms of my child's allergies and other medications?

Check that the medication is safe to take with any allergies your child may have and other products your child may need (prescription, over-the-counter and natural health products).

10) Has anything changed?

If your child's dose has changed, the formulation has changed or you've seen a different doctor or pharmacist than usual, double-check all of the above answers.

Check with your pharmacist if the colour, taste or texture of the medicine has changed.