

5 Questions to Ask About My Medicine

An
Implementation
Guide

This guide is to support health teams when talking to children and their caregivers about the medications that have been prescribed or recommended.

Why is this needed?

"It can remind me of questions to ask my health care team." ~Pediatric Patient

"It is important to be informed as a parent but also to be sure your child is adequately informed. Starting and continuing medications should be a discussion with the health team." ~Parent

Medication errors are common in children.¹ Practitioners must be able to identify and mitigate risk for medication errors in high-risk patients in all settings.²

How does it work?

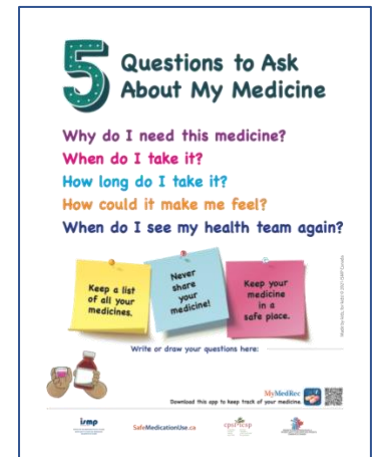
- ⇒ The 5 questions have been co-developed by patients and health care providers, for children ages 8 - 12.
- ⇒ It has been designed to be a springboard for conversation between providers, and children and their caregivers.

How do you implement it?

- ⇒ Use the 5 Questions resource to facilitate conversation. Some children and caregivers will be better able to understand more information than others.
- ⇒ Be sure to include information such as the potential side effects, proper use (before bed, with food etc.), signs of worsening illness and when to contact a health care provider.

Key Findings

- From a consultation survey, 100% of patients/caregivers found the handout useful and 80% plan to use it.
- From an incident analysis, it was determined that a child, educated about their own medications, prevented an error when their parent was about to administer a medication that belonged to an adult family member.



Reminders

Review the safety tips with child and caregiver.

Encourage families to keep an updated medication list; the MyMedRec App can be helpful.

1. ¹Miller MR, Robinson KA, Lubomski LH, Rinke ML, Pronovost PJ. Medication errors in paediatric care: A systematic review of epidemiology and an evaluation of evidence supporting reduction strategy recommendations. Qual Saf Health Care 2007;16(2):116-26.

2. <https://www.cps.ca/en/documents/position/medication-safety-for-children-with-medical-complexity>, Oct. 2020