

Medication Safety

Adverse drug events (ADEs) are harms resulting from the use of medication and include allergic reactions, side effects, overmedication, and medication errors. Adverse drug events are a serious public health problem.

ADEs cause approximately 1.3 million emergency department visits and 350,000 hospitalizations each year.

> 90% of unintentional medication overdose ED visits in children <5 years old are due to children getting into medicine on their own without caregiver oversight.



See the CDC's webpage
for more information!



Reduce Risk of Harm from Adverse Drug Events:

1. Keep a list of all your medications, including over the counter (OTC) medications.

- Include medication name, dose, frequency of administration, & condition the medication is treating.
- Share the list with all your doctors. Some medications may interact when they are taken together and cause adverse reactions.

2. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist questions!

- They may have tips for taking certain medications (i.e., take with food/on an empty stomach, etc.)!
- Let your provider know if you are experiencing any side effects.

3. Keep up with any blood testing recommended by your doctor.

- Some medications require regular blood tests to make sure they are treating your medical condition properly. Medication dose may need to be adjusted based on results.

4. Take all medication only as directed by your healthcare provider!

- Follow any directions on prescription label/directions given by prescriber.
- Do not stop taking a medication without talking to your doctor. Finish an entire antibiotic course if prescribed unless directed by a healthcare provider. Do NOT save them for later.

5. Make sure children do not have access to medication without adult supervision.

- Verify the medication and dose before giving a child medication.

6. Store all medications in a safe place.

- Medication should be stored in a cool, dry place out of the reach of pets or children.
- Always check expiration dates of your medications – do not take medication that is expired.

