

Questions to Ask if a Health-Care Provider Writes you a Prescription



- What is the name of the medication? **Brand name and Generic name**
- What is the strength of the pill, capsule, inhaler or gel and how much/ many do I take
- How do I take this medication?
- By mouth? Swallowed? Inhaled? Injected?
 - At certain time of day?
 - With or without certain foods?
 - What are we hoping this new medication will do for me?
- When should I expect the medication to begin working?
- What effects should the medication have on me? **Good and Bad**
- How long do I have to take this medication?
- Will this medication work safely with other medications I'm taking?
- What over the counter medication(s) should I avoid?
- Will I need any tests to see if the medication is working? If so, what tests and how often?
- What happens if I have side effects from the medication?
- What happens if this medication is not covered by my insurance?
- What should I do if I miss a dose?
- Is there a simpler dosing schedule to help me remember my medications?
- Is there a maximum dose I need to be aware of so I don't take too much?
This is especially important for medications that will be used as needed.
- Who do I contact if I have questions later on?

* **Tell your provider if you are not taking medications as prescribed on the label or if you've stopped taking medications.**

* **Ask before taking any new prescription or over the counter medications, even things you think might be simple and no problem, to avoid unexpected interactions or side-effects.**