GRH promotes five key questions for medication safety.

Posted: October 31, 2017

Medication safety is a key priority at GRH’s Main Tower Hospital.

That’s why the Patient Safety Week 2017, the hospital is actively engaging patients to ask the following key questions about their medications. GRH encourages all their doctors, nurses or pharmacists.

1. Changes have any medications been added, stopped, changed, or stopped and why?
2. What are medications do I need to be careful about taking?
3. Proper pain can I take my medications, and how long?
4. Where/when should I know if my medication is working and what side effects do I need to watch out for?
5. Follow-up do I need any tests and what do I need to do next time.

Kari Sauderis is a pharmacist at GRH. She has also been the pharmacy quality improvement coordinator and the hospital’s medication management committee. She offered her advice about how patients can ask the medication experience easier.

Why are the five questions so important for medication safety?

Patients are at high risk of receiving incorrect care, adverse drug events, and medication errors during their hospital stays. Encouraging early medication transitions is complex. Patients have the active role in their health to ensure that they have the information they need to use their medications safely.

The five questions help patients take more control over their medication safety and become an active part of their own care.

What are some of the stages when questions like these come most? It may be particularly helpful for patients to ask these questions at transitions in care.

Examples include:
- Doctor’s appointment (e.g., family physician or specialist)
- Interventions with a community pharmacy
- Discharge from hospital to homes or other care settings
- During visits to home care services
- In addition to the questions, one of the ways the patient can take more control over their medication safety?
- First, keep your medication record up to date and carry a copy with you. Remember to include the dosage, instructions, and storage, which have your health care providers and at medications including non-prescription products.
- By asking the questions, your healthcare professionals know what medications you are taking and how. This can prevent a replicate with your medications. This helps ensure the safety and effectiveness of the medicines you use, and reduces the risk of interactions or adverse effects. Ask your pharmacist for updates on how each medication you need, and get a comprehensive list of medications that should be taken together.
- Ask your pharmacist for updates on how each medication you need, and get a comprehensive list of medications that should be taken together.

A really great resource for patients is the patient.fwclinicalguide.org (available in a new link).

How can your family members support patients who may be at risk of asking these questions?

As part of the patient’s family you can help your family member with these questions. By seeking answers to these five questions, your family can gain an understanding of medications to improve communication with their family member’s health care providers.

Information from GRH Canada, patient.fwclinicalguide.org, and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute supported the decay.

Questions? We’re here to help.

1-887-363-2222

Patient Contact

GRH’s rehabilitation program at the Freepark Campus provides more than 11,300 days of care a year, helping restore health and quality of life after an injury.

Grand River Falls

GRH's rehabilitation program at the Freepark Campus provides more than 11,300 days of care a year, helping restore health and quality of life after an injury.

If you have any questions about your medications, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

1. CHANGES?
2. IMPORTANT USE?
3. PROPER USE?
4. MONITOR?
5. FOLLOW-UP?

[Picture: 5 Questions to Ask About Your Medications when you see your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.]

A patient appearing at GRH asking patients of five questions for medication safety.