



DARK SIDE OF MEDICINE



MEDICINE SAFETY SERIES

MS-02

Raising Concerns About a Medicine

Supporting patients, carers and families to raise medicine concerns.

A practical guide for discussions with healthcare professionals.

darksideofmedicine.org

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Why This Resource Matters

Patients and carers are often the first to notice changes after starting a medicine or following a dose adjustment. Raising concerns early can help identify potential medicine-related problems and support safer treatment decisions.

When Might You Raise a Concern?

- New symptoms after starting a medicine
- Symptoms becoming worse
- Side effects affecting daily life
- Changes in mood or behaviour
- Sleep disturbances
- Memory or concentration difficulties
- Falls or balance problems
- Concerns about medicine interactions
- Concerns about long-term effects
- Difficulties taking the medicine as prescribed

What Changes Have You Noticed?

When Did You First Notice These Changes?



Understanding Your Dose

- What dose am I taking?
- Why was this dose chosen?
- Has my dose changed recently?
- Is this considered a low, moderate, or high dose?
- What is the usual dose range?
- What is the maximum recommended dose?
- Could my symptoms be related to the dose?
- Is monitoring required at this dose?
- When should my treatment be reviewed?

Questions You Might Ask

- Could these symptoms be related to my medicine?
- Could they be related to the dose?
- Are these recognised side effects?
- Could my medicines be interacting?
- Do I need monitoring or tests?
- Are there alternative treatment options?
- Is a medicine review recommended?
- Are the benefits still outweighing the risks?



Notes for My Appointment

Medicine Safety Tip

Understanding your dose is an important part of medicine safety.

When to Seek Urgent Medical Advice

Difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, severe allergic reactions, loss of consciousness, severe confusion, new or unusual seizures, rapidly worsening symptoms, or any reaction that feels serious or concerning.

Related Resources

MS-01 7-Day Medicine Monitoring Diary

MS-03 Questions for Your Doctor, Pharmacist or Healthcare Professional

MS-04 Medicine Review Preparation Pack