



Complementary Medicines Parent Brochure



We need to know about all of your child's medicines.

There is a risk of unexpected problems if we don't know about all of the medicines that your child is taking.

Please tell the doctors or nurses about all of your child's medicines, even if they forget to ask you. It is very important.

Don't forget these:

medicines prescribed by the hospital
medicines prescribed by another doctor (maybe your GP)
medicines you bought at the chemist or the supermarket,
complementary medicines ("natural remedies").

We want to know about these medicines so that we can give you the best advice in caring for your child. Different medicines can sometimes react badly with each other.

What are complementary medicines?

These are sometimes called "natural remedies" and include: high dose vitamins, minerals, herbal therapies, tonics, aromatherapy, and homeopathic medicines. They are also sometimes known as "traditional" or "alternative" medicines. They are being widely used in Australia and overseas.

What if I would like my child to receive a complementary medicine while in hospital?

Please discuss this with the medical staff, nursing staff or the ward pharmacist. They can find out more information about the medicine, discuss it with you and tell you if we think it is safe for it to be given while your child is in hospital.

Please don't give your child any medicines without telling the staff.

The medical and nursing staff will tell you about our guidelines for complementary medicines while your child is in hospital.

Our responsibilities

- to ask you about all of your child's medicines
- to advise you about the safety of all medicines

Your responsibilities

- to tell us about all of your child's medicines
- to tell us if you wish to use a complementary medicine while your child is in hospital
- to sign a statement to say that our policy has been discussed with you before you give your child a complementary medicine in hospital
- to supply any complementary medicine while your child is in hospital
- to give all medicines to the nurses to safely store them so that other children on the ward cannot get hold of them.
- to record on the chart when a dose of a complementary medicine has been given