



What is important when administering or taking medication?

Almost everyone depends on medication at least once in their lifetime. As helpful as medications are when used correctly, they can cause significant damage when used incorrectly. In order to ensure patient safety as best as possible, players in the healthcare system as well as patients must pull together and take the following aspects into account.

What do **patients** have to consider?



- General compliance when taking medication, i. e. adhering to the recommended dosing regimen and other intake recommendations (e.g. meals, specific foods)



- No arbitrary discontinuation and no arbitrary dosage change. In case of possible side effects, patients should consult their prescribing doctor.



- Particularly important: Take the entire prescribed dose of medication. Especially if antibiotic therapy is ended prematurely or if the dose is too low, there is a risk of antibiotic resistance!



- Inform the prescribing doctor about other medications so that interactions can be taken into account



- Store medication correctly at home, e.g. observe recommended temperature and light conditions



- Patients who have difficulties following the recommendations should ask their family or friends for support and, if necessary, consult their prescribing doctor.



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What do **healthcare professionals** need to consider when administering medication to patients?

When prescribing:



- Point out compliance or identify any difficulties the patient may have with compliance. If necessary, offer help or involve the patient's environment.



- Take the correct spectrum of activity into account, e.g. when prescribing antibiotics



- Be aware of potential drug interactions

When preparing & administering:



- Know. Check. Ask. Sufficient knowledge of the medication, verify the patient, check the dosage, route of administration, etc. Ask if you are unsure



- Use standardised processes (e.g. SOPs). Observe the SOPs incl. checklists "**Prepare intravenous medication**"* and "**Administer intravenous medication**"**



- Store, label and monitor medication correctly



- Observe hygiene at all work steps (e.g. clean water as well as hand, surface, instrument and skin disinfection)



- In case of a mistake: report medication error

