



THE CARE PARTNER PROJECT™

How to Get the Care You Want
for the People You Love

ABOUT MEDICATION MIX-UPS

Safety steps are followed each time a patient gets a medicine in the hospital. Still, it's important for you to help, too. There is no such thing as "too safe" for your loved one!

RISK FACTORS

Patients tend to get several medications in the hospital. Many look alike and some names sound alike. Nurses can be distracted, especially when others talk or interrupt them while giving a medication.

TRUST YOUR GUT

You know your loved one best. Every medication (or combination of meds) could affect your loved one in a way that's not expected.

Always get a nurse if you have any worries about anything that "just doesn't seem right."

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CHECKLIST

PREVENT MEDICATION MIX-UPS

- Make sure your loved one's allergies and any bad experiences with medicines in the past are included on the medical record - and highlighted in a bold way.
- Before a nurse ever gives a medicine, ask:
 - What is the medicine you're planning to give? (If an IV bag is used, read the label to double check it's the right medicine.)
 - What is it for?
 - What is the dose?
 - Who prescribed it?
 - Say: "Let's confirm that it's for (your loved one's name)."
 - For medicines in an IV bag, ask: "What time do you think this bag will run out?" If the bag empties completely, get a nurse, especially if you see blood creeping up the IV tube.
- Don't talk to or distract nurses when they give medicines.
However, speak up immediately if you sense a mistake is being made. For example, wrong patient, wrong medicine, wrong time, wrong dose, or wrong way
- Research the pros and cons of every drug prescribed for your loved one. Make notes about the potential side effects and interactions. Buy a drug guide or go to [Drugs.com](https://www.drugs.com). If you have any concerns, bring them up immediately with the attending doctor.

Record every time your loved one gets a medicine.
- If your loved one is 65 or older, check the [Beers List](#), too. (It has info about medications considered unsafe or "iffy" for seniors.)

GET A NURSE IF ...

Your loved one shows signs of (or complains about) the following:

- diarrhea
- stomach cramps
- coughing
- wheezing
- difficulty breathing
- difficulty swallowing
- swelling face
- swelling/itchy eyes
- rash or hives
- confusion, anxiety, restlessness
- light-headedness, dizziness, fainting
- swelling in neck
- bluish lips
- cool, clammy skin
- chest pain
- unusual sweating