

Facts on Drug Interactions

Take a written record of the following to all doctors' visits:

- All prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, herbals, and vitamins
- Who prescribed them, their dosages, how often taken, and how long taken
- Drug allergies and immunizations

DO NOT USE OLD MEDICATIONS!

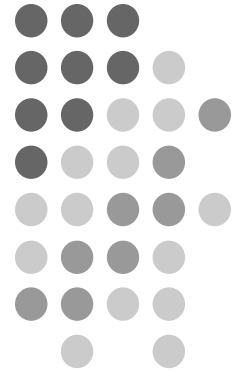
- They may have changed chemically, affect you adversely, or not work at all.

Be Aware:

- Two drugs taken together can either affect how one or both behave in the body—perhaps an even greater effect than expected.
- As we grow older, drugs stay active in our bodies longer and we may need less medication.
- Drug trials are seldom done on women, children or older adults.

Annoying Side Effects: Rash, Stomachache, Nausea, Drowsiness

Severe or Life Threatening Side Effects: Irregular heartbeat, Prolonged vomiting, Loss of consciousness, Stroke, Blindness, Seizures



Questions to Ask Your Doctor or Pharmacist:

- What is the name of the medicine and what is it supposed to do?
- How much should I take, when should I take it, and for how long?
- What foods, beverages, other medicines, or activities should I avoid while taking it?
- What are the possible side effects and what should I do if they occur?
- What written material is available about the medicine?

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Remember: A chemical agent strong enough to cure an ailment is also strong enough to cause harm, if not used wisely.