

Giving medicines to your child in hospital

This leaflet gives information about how you can give medicines to your child during their stay at Evelina London. This is called the self/carer administration scheme. Before taking part in the administration scheme, you can talk to your nurse, member of pharmacy staff or doctor what it involves and why it might be good for you and your child. Older children can sometimes be responsible for their own medicines. You can ask for our leaflet that explains more.

What is self/carer administration?

The self/carer administration scheme allows you to be responsible for giving medicines independently (or with supervision) while your child is in hospital. This might be helpful if the medicines need to be taken at set times or at short notice, for example, if your child takes insulin for diabetes or has renal disease.

Do you have to take part?

No. It is entirely up to you. If you choose not to take part, the nurse will give the medicines to your child while they are in hospital, and give you information about them when you go home.

What happens if you want to take part?

Please tell a nurse, pharmacist or doctor caring for your child. When you have done this, the self/carer administration scheme will be explained more fully. Staff will then check your suitability for the scheme.

The assessment will include:

- the reason for your child's hospital stay
- how medicines are given at home
- any problems or concerns you have with giving medicines
- your understanding of the medicines

The assessment might show that your child's current medical condition means that you cannot take part in the scheme, or that more support is needed. Staff will discuss this with you, and nurses will give the medicines to your child during their hospital stay.

If the assessment shows that you are suitable for the scheme, you will be:

- asked to sign a consent form
- given a key or fob to the bedside medicines locker, if appropriate (you carer will be asked to sign for receipt and return of the key or fob)
- told which medicines your child will take
- given a leaflet as a reminder of how to give the medicines, if necessary
- provided with a sharps bin for the used needles (if you are giving injectable medicines, such as insulin)

The medicines that have been brought into hospital with your child will be used, if suitable. Other medicines your child needs while in hospital will be supplied from the hospital pharmacy.

Each medicine container will have your child's name, the name of the medicine, and instructions on how to give it. The nurse will ask you what medicines have been given. If your child is on medicines with a variable dose (such as insulin), tell the nurses what dose you have actually given.

If you forget what medicines you have given, or you have any questions about your child's medicines, please speak to your child's nurse or a member of pharmacy staff.

Benefits of the self/carer administration scheme

Self/carer administration will help you to:

- maintain independence by continuing to give the medicines as you do at home
- improve your knowledge about your child's medicines and how to use them safely

Can you change your mind?

Yes. You can stop taking part in the self/carer administration scheme at any time. Just let the nurse know.

What happens if your child become less well, needs an anaesthetic, or you are not available to give their medicines?

If this happens, the nurse will give the medicines to your child until you can do it again. You must tell your child's nurse if you cannot administer any doses of medicine.

Your responsibilities when taking part in the scheme

To help keep your child and those around you safe, you should be aware of the following points:

Do speak to the nurse or member of pharmacy staff if:

- you are having any problems giving your child medicines
- you lose your medicines locker key or fob
- you are running low on any medicines
- you are worried or unsure about anything, or have any questions about the medicines
- a visitor or another patient tries to take your child's medicines

Do:

- tell your doctor, nurse or member of pharmacy staff **immediately** if your child has any side effects
- tell the nurse the dose actually given for any variable-dose medicines (such as insulin)
- let a member of pharmacy staff check all of your child's medicines, and the medicines locker, before you leave hospital
- return your bedside medicines storage key or fob to your child's nurse before you leave hospital.

Do not:

- give more than the dose on the label
- give any medicines that you are unsure about
- store anything inside the bedside medicine locker other than your child's medicines
- leave your child's medicine locker unlocked, even for a short time
- give your child's medicine locker key or fob to a relative, or visitor, or to another patient
- share your child's medicines with anyone else.

Contact us

If you have any questions about your child's medicines or the self/carer administration of medicines scheme, please speak to the doctor, nurse or pharmacy staff caring for your child.

For more information on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [web](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk) www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline, [phone](tel:02071883003) 020 7188 3003, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm
[email](mailto:letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk) letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), [phone](tel:02071888801) 020 7188 8801 [email](mailto:pals@gstt.nhs.uk) pals@gstt.nhs.uk. To make a complaint contact the resolution department [phone](tel:02071883514) 020 7188 3514 [email](mailto:complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk) complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch, [phone](tel:02071888815) 020 7188 8815 [email](mailto:languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk) languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

This service offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day, [phone](tel:111) 111
[web](http://www.111.nhs.uk) www.111.nhs.uk

NHS website

This website gives information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you take control of your health and wellbeing, [web](http://www.nhs.uk) www.nhs.uk

Get involved and have your say: become a member of the Trust

Members of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust contribute to the organisation on a voluntary basis. We count on them for feedback, local knowledge and support. Membership is free and it is up to you how much you get involved. To find out more, please get in touch, [phone](tel:08007310319) 0800 731 0319 [email](mailto:members@gstt.nhs.uk) members@gstt.nhs.uk
[web](http://www.guyandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership) www.guyandstthomas.nhs.uk/membership

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