

## Getting the best out of your medicines?

### Find out how your local chemist can help

Your community pharmacy (chemist) is able to give you advice and support on managing your medicines including after you leave hospital.

This leaflet tells you about the services you may be able to receive from your community pharmacy.

### New medicines

If you have been prescribed a new medicine for a long-term condition while you were in hospital, at an outpatient clinic or by your GP you may be invited to use the New Medicine Service.

This is a free NHS service to help you understand your condition and get the most out of your new medicine.

The community pharmacist will ask you questions about how you are getting on with your new medicine, find out if you are having any problems and give you information and support.

This is a confidential conversation and will be provided in a private area within the pharmacy or, if you prefer, you could choose to have the discussion over the telephone.

Your hospital pharmacist, doctor or nurse will be able to tell you if you are eligible for the New Medicine Service. They might give you a form to take to your pharmacy. This will help the pharmacist understand why you have been prescribed the new medicine.

### Changes to medicines

If your medicines were changed, for example, while you were in hospital you are eligible to have a Medicines Use Review at your community pharmacy. This is a free NHS service to help you find out more about the medicines you are taking, pick up any problems you are having with your medicines and so improve their effectiveness. It is a confidential conversation with your community pharmacist and will be provided in a private area within the pharmacy.

Your hospital pharmacist, doctor or nurse might give you a form to take to your pharmacy if you are eligible for the medicines review. This will help the pharmacist understand why there have been changes to your medicines.

### Your community pharmacist can help you with your medicines

You can ask your community pharmacist questions about your medicines at any time.

### Other pharmacy services

Ask your pharmacist about other pharmacy services such as:

- healthy living advice
- advice on treating minor illnesses
- help with stopping smoking
- advice on self-care plus stocking a safe medicines cabinet
- safe disposal of unwanted medicines