

# **PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR DOCTOR**

What is the brand name of the medicine?

- What is the generic name (chemical name)

What will the medicine do (for example, decrease blood pressure)?

Why do I need this medicine?

Are there any other medicine or treatment options?

How much does the medicine cost?

Is a generic form of the medicine available and appropriate for me?

Is there a lower cost brand that is preferred by my insurance company?

Is there a way to split pills?

Can I start with a prescription for a few days to make sure the medicine agrees with me?

How is the medicine taken (for example, orally [by mouth] or through a skin patch)?

What amount do I take each time (dose)?

How often should it be taken (for example, 3 times a day)?

Should I take it with or without food?

What should I avoid while taking it (for example, certain foods, activities, other medicines, or alcohol)?

Will it interact with other medicines I am currently taking or other medical conditions?

If yes, what might occur?

What are the common side effects (those that do not usually cause problems)?

What side effects should I report if I experience them?

What do I do if I miss a dose?

How long will I need to take this medicine (days, weeks, months)?

How will I know that the medicine is helping?

What is the next step if this medicine doesn't work?

What can I do if my insurance company doesn't cover my medication?

## **QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR PHARMACIST:**

What is the cash price?

Is there a discount program?

Can I set up a medication therapy management appointment?

Is there a manufacturer discount?

Are there any non-profit assistance programs to help with the cost of drugs?

Are there any resources to help with the cost of prescription medication?

### **REMINDERS**

- Be sure you understand your doctor's instructions
- State any concerns you have about taking the medicine. For example, ask if "4 doses daily" means taking a dose every 6 hours around the clock or just during regular waking hours.



This information does not replace the advice of a doctor.