

## Self administration of medicines

Information for parents and carers

### Why am I being asked to think about giving my child's medicines in hospital?

A self-medication facility is available on this ward to enable parents/carers, where possible, to be responsible for giving some or all of their child's own medicines to their child.

Self-medication is **not compulsory** and you need not feel that you have to administer your child's medicines.

### What will happen if I do want to give my child their medicines?

If you decide you would like to take part, a member of staff will discuss exactly what self medication involves and the possible benefits for you. You will be asked about all your child's current medicines and these will be checked by the nurse or pharmacist.

### What will happen to my child's medicines?

Your child's medicines will be kept in a locked cabinet by your bed. Whether you have access to this or not depends upon the level of support you initially need. If you usually administer your child's medicines at home, you should be able to fully self-medicate before you leave the hospital.

### What if I don't have enough of my child's medicines, or they start to take something new?

Your child's own medicines from home may be used if suitable. Any other medicines you require will be obtained for you from the hospital pharmacy.

Continued overleaf

All your child's medicines will be clearly marked with your child's name, the name of the medicine and instructions on how to take them.

### How can I be sure all this is safe?

- It is your responsibility to keep your medications safely locked in the cabinet and keep the key in a safe place.
- Never give your child more than the dose on the label, and never share the medicines with anyone else.
- If you forget the number of tablets or when to give them, or if you have any questions please ask one of the nursing staff.
- Remember that, if not used properly, medicines can be dangerous.
- If anyone else tries to take your child's medicines, please contact one of the nurses immediately.
- Before you go home your child's medicines will need to be checked. Please allow the staff time to do this.
- Please remember to return your key to nursing staff before you go home.

If at any time you have any questions concerning self-medication please contact the nursing staff who will be happy to help.

### What happens when my child goes home?

The doctor will write a prescription for all the medicines your child is taking. The ones you have been giving your child will either be inspected on the ward, or sent to pharmacy. This is to make sure there are enough supplies and they are correctly labelled. Your child's medicines will be given back in time for you to go home. If you have any questions about the medicines you are taking home, do ask the nurse, doctor or pharmacy staff.

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690