



## Speak Up at Discharge

*Your child's health and safety are important to us. You can make a difference in your child's care by asking questions and being actively involved.*

Here are some questions you can ask when your child is being discharged from the hospital:

### **Ask about your child's condition and next steps:**

- Does your child have any new medical conditions?
- Should your child limit activity?
- Should your child avoid any foods, caffeine, etc.?
- Do you need any referrals? Referrals may be needed for: new doctors or specialty healthcare providers, tests or therapy services, homecare services, and/or medical equipment, like a walker or oxygen.

### **Ask about your child's medicines:**

- What new medicines is your child taking?
- What side effects should you look for?
- How long does your child need to take the medicine?
- What should you do if you feel it isn't working?
- Can your child take it with their other medicines, vitamins, or supplements?
- Do any of your prescriptions need to be filled? If so, can you pick them up in the hospital?

### **Ask about follow-up care for your child:**

- Will your child need follow-up tests or treatments?
- Does your child need a follow-up appointment with your surgeon or other healthcare provider?
- When does your child need to see their primary care provider? Be sure to tell your child's primary care provider about their hospital stay.

### **Ask for information about getting help if you need it:**

- What is the number to call if you have a question?
- Who do you call after hours if you have a problem?
- What symptoms should cause you to call your doctor immediately?
- What symptoms should cause you to take your child to an urgent care or emergency room?
- What should you do if your child has pain?

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