

Shortening Time in the Pharmacy



Health Mart Pharmacist Column—September 10, 2006

Picking up prescriptions is something we all need to do at one time or another. Whether you go every once a while or find yourself there frequently, take heart. There are many ways you can get the errand done more quickly, so you can shorten your time in the pharmacy.

If you need your medication in a hurry, let the pharmacist know when you take in the prescription. We'll do what we can to accommodate you. If you need medicine before you leave on a trip, though, be sure to allow plenty of time to get the prescription filled. Likewise, order your refills a few days ahead of when you'll need them, so you'll have an uninterrupted supply. If you have trouble remembering this sort of thing, put a reminder by the phone, on the refrigerator, or some place you can't miss it.

Before you pick up your prescription, know how you will pay for it. Do you have health insurance that covers your prescriptions? If so, make sure you carry your insurance card with you and also have handy any other identification or means of payment you will need. If your insurance changes, be sure to bring the new card with you the first time you purchase a prescription. To avoid any surprises, be sure to review the basics of your coverage. That way, you'll know how much you need to pay for generics and brand medications.

If you get your medications from more than one pharmacy or supplier, such as a mail order pharmacy, it will help to share that information with your pharmacists. Bring a written list of your medications and their dosages with you when you pick up a new prescription. This will speed up the pharmacist's ability to counsel you on potential drug interactions or side effects.

If you have questions about your new medication, you may also find it helpful to write them down as you think of them, before you arrive at the pharmacy. Relying on your memory for concerns that cropped up at 2:00 in the morning, for example, is not always the best approach! But getting your thoughts onto paper can make you—and, therefore, your pharmacist, more efficient.

If you ever become frustrated by the time it takes to get a prescription filled, remind yourself of this: The pharmacist and other pharmacy staff need to take some time to ensure that you get the right type and amount of medication, and that you have clear instructions on how to use it. This may sometimes take more time than you like, but it is vital for your health and safety.



If you have any questions please feel free to contact me @ 873-3244 or mcglynnrx@tds.net

Thanks, Dan McGlynn