

DESIGNATED MEDICATION MANAGER CAMPAIGN (DMM)

We can all help stop medication errors and medication abuse. Join the fight to reduce medication misuse.

Community and Family

To be a Designated Medication Manager (DMM), offer to:

Help a friend dispose of unused or unneeded medications.

Ask a friend if he or she would like you to help them look for any expired medications.

Go to the doctor or pharmacist with a friend or family member to be sure they understand the instructions for their medications.

Be available when a friend or family member is discharged from the hospital, to be sure they understand their medications and discharge instructions.

Research any medication side effects or adverse events that may occur.

Help update the patient's medication list and include any side effects or unplanned outcomes during use of medication.

Check that labels are still attached and intact on medication packaging.

Ask the patient if you can check back with them a day or so after getting a new prescription, to see if there are any side effects or complications.

Ask to bring all the patient's medications, vitamins, or herbs to the pharmacist, doctor or nurse for review, and then make an appointment.

Check to see if the patient is using only one pharmacy for all prescriptions.

Keep all information private and confidential and ensure patient gets the privacy they want and need.

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Clinician and / or Pharmacist

To be a clinician or pharmacist supporting the Designated Medication Manager (DMM) here are some things you could do:

Ask the patient who their Designated Medication Manager is, to assist them with their medications when they get home.

If the patient has no Designated Medication Manager, encourage him or her to designate a helper to be an extra set of eyes and ears when dealing with medication.

Suggest that the Designated Medication Manager helps make sure medications are used as prescribed, since there are so many opportunities for error, or in some cases for overuse of medications.

Ask the patient to bring the Designated Medication Manager along to the doctor's office, the hospital (especially at discharge) or to the pharmacy to help ask questions.

List on the patient's record who their Designated Medication Manager is or could be.

Post signs and literature encouraging patients to choose a Designated Medication Manager.

Facts:

Medication Errors Injure 1.5 Million People and Cost Billions of Dollars Annually. *Institute of Medicine 2006*

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, a crucial first step in tackling the problem of prescription drug abuse is to educate patients about the dangers of abusing prescription drugs.

A Yale-New Haven Hospital study reports that 377 patients who went to the hospital with heart failure, acute coronary syndrome or pneumonia, (81%) encountered medication issues after discharge.

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