

4. What side effects and precautions should I be aware of?

3. When should I expect the medicine to begin to work, and how will I know if it's working?

2. How and when do I take it, and for how long?

1. What is the name of the medicine, and what is it for?

Before you take a prescription medicine, ask your healthcare provider the following questions. It's also helpful to keep an up-to-date list of all medicines you're taking.

8. Is there any additional information I should have?

7. How should I store this medicine?

6. Will this medicine work safely with the other medicines I'm taking, including non-prescription medicines and vitamins?

5. Should I avoid any activities, such as driving, food or drinks, or other medicines while I'm taking this?

If you are one of the millions of Americans who takes a prescription medicine, ask yourself: **Do I fully understand the benefits and potential risks of the medicine I'm taking?** If your response is no, **Take Time to Ask!**

Here are four tips to guide your conversation with your healthcare provider:

1. Talk to your healthcare provider and ask questions about the benefits and potential risks of the prescription medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you are taking --- including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and dietary supplements.
3. Tell your healthcare provider about any allergies or sensitivities you have.
4. Read and follow the medicine label and directions.



For more information, go to **National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPIE)**  
**BeMedWise.org**

*Take Time to Ask!*  
*Discuss the Benefits and Risks of Prescription Medicines*

