

Important Notice for Medicare Out-Patients

What You Need to Know if You Take Medicines at Home

If there are medicines you regularly take at home, it's important to know what to do if it is time to take those medicines and you are at the hospital for outpatient services such as observation, in the emergency department, in oncology or having an outpatient surgery or procedure.

Due to patient safety concerns, regulations do not allow personal medications to be brought into the hospital for any reason. These medicines are known as “self-administered drugs” since you take them yourself on a regular basis. If you need to take your dose while you are at the hospital for an outpatient visit, your physician will order the necessary dose for you from our pharmacy.

You May Be Billed for Self-administered Drugs

During your treatment, you may receive drugs that Medicare identifies as “self-administered” drugs. Medicare defines self-administered as drugs that you would take by mouth or give to yourself in a setting outside the hospital (i.e., home, work, etc.) These medications include, but are not limited to: oral medications, insulin, eye drops and topical creams or treatments.

Medicare regulations require the hospital to identify self-administered drugs that have been dispensed during your outpatient treatment. You will find these drugs listed under “Pharmacy” on your billing statement. These charges are not covered by Medicare and therefore payment is your responsibility.

Apply for a Refund through Medicare Part D

If you are enrolled in Medicare Part D, you can submit a claim to your drug plan for a refund, but that claim may or may not be granted.

For detailed information on how Medicare covers hospital services, including premiums, deductibles and co-payments, contact:

1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) TTY Users (1-877-486-2048)

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visit <http://www.medicare.gov/Publications/Pubs/pdf/10050.pdf>
to download and view the Medicare & You Handbook.

