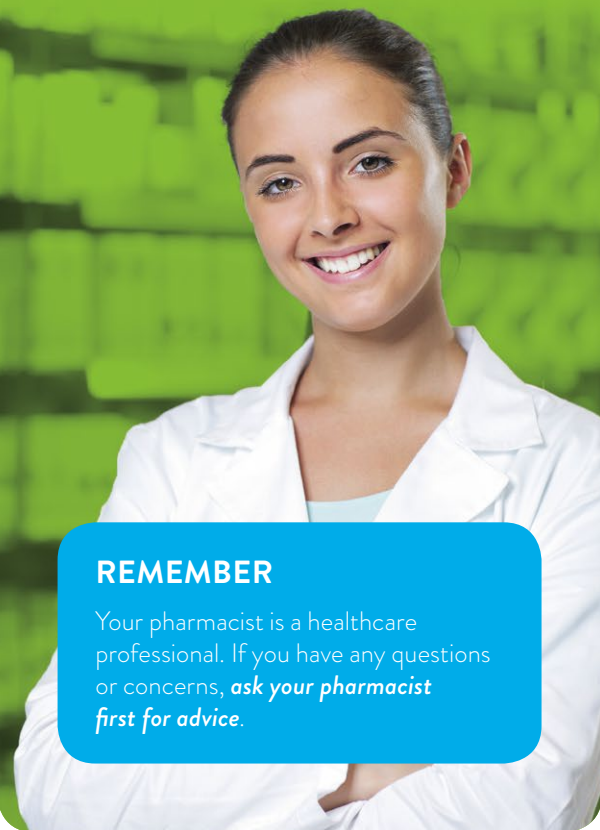


IN YOUR LOCAL PHARMACY...

There are a number of different people working in a pharmacy, who are all there to help you in every way they can. Pharmacy staff include Pharmacists, Pharmacy Technicians, Medicines Counter Assistants and Sales Assistants. The whole team work together for the benefit of your health. You can ask any member of staff about your concerns and they will direct you to the pharmacist if needs be.



REMEMBER

Your pharmacist is a healthcare professional. If you have any questions or concerns, *ask your pharmacist first for advice.*

PHARMACY STAMP



This leaflet was developed for patients by the Irish Pharmacy Union.

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ASK YOUR PHARMACIST FIRST

Pharmacists are professional medicines and healthcare experts. Your pharmacist is committed to delivering a quality, personal and professional service that puts you first.



WHAT YOUR PHARMACIST DOES

Many people believe that a pharmacist's job is just to dispense medicines. However, your pharmacist does a great deal more than meets the eye.

WHAT YOUR PHARMACIST DOES WITH YOUR PRESCRIPTION

When a prescription is handed in at the counter, your pharmacist ensures that:

- The medicine, the dose and the instructions are right for you
- The medicine will not react with anything else you are taking
- You are warned of any significant side effects
- Your doctor is contacted if we have any concerns
- Your individual medication record is updated

Your pharmacist may offer a range of health services, such as blood pressure measurement, cholesterol testing and seasonal flu vaccination. Ask your pharmacist about the services they provide.

Your pharmacist can advise you on:

- **How to take your medicines correctly.**
Ask your pharmacist about your medicines to ensure you are getting the most out of them.
- How to treat minor ailments, such as coughs, colds, stomach upsets and hay fever.
- How to manage chronic illnesses, including diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.
- Lifestyle concerns, such as weight management and quitting smoking.

YOU CAN SPEAK TO YOUR PHARMACIST IN PRIVATE

Pharmacies are busy places so, if you want to talk to your pharmacist in private, you can use the private consultation area.

LOOKING AFTER YOUR HEALTH – WHAT YOU CAN DO

- By using the same pharmacy for all prescription medicines, especially if you take medicines regularly, your pharmacist will be aware of all your medication history. He/she can ensure that your patient medication record is up-to-date, and will know of any allergies you may have and any interactions that may occur with the medicines you are taking.
- Speak to your pharmacist about any side effects you are experiencing from medicines.
- Return out-of-date medicines to your pharmacist.
- Store your medicines in a cool, dark place, unless specifically advised to store them in the fridge.
- Never take prescription medicines that have not been prescribed for you.
- Keep medicines out of reach and sight of children.

