

# Medication History Interview



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# INTRODUCTION



- Medication history is a part of pharmaceutical consultation that identifies and document allergies or other serious adverse medication events as well as information about how medicines are taken currently and have been taken in the past.
- Starting point for medication reconciliation and medication review
- Part of medical history which focuses on medication therapy.

# GOALS OF MEDICATION HISTORY

- To gain information on
  - ✓ Prescription and nonprescription medications
  - ✓ Perceived benefit or adverse effects of the therapy
  - ✓ Medication allergy/intolerance
- Identification of potential medication problems
- To develop more through assessment and pharmaceutical care plan
- Better patient outcomes



# Types of Data Collection



## Subjective

- Information provided by the patient
- Cannot confirmed/observed/measured
- Other measure to validate it

## Objective

- Measurable and observed
- Not influenced by the opinion/perception of the patient

# Sources of Patient Data

- Patient interview
- Medical records
- Pharmacy dispensing records
- Health care providers
- Care giver/ family members



# Components of Patient Drug History

- 1) Demographic and patient financial insurance information
- 2) Medication allergies and intolerance
- 3) Immunizations
- 4) Medications
- 5) Barriers to compliance
- 6) Additional home monitoring and compliance aids
- 7) Additional information for patient history:
  - Social history
  - Acute/chronic medical problems



# Aspects of medication use obtained from medication history interview

- History of previous allergies/ ADR
- Perceived efficacy
- Perceived side effects
- Adherence to medication
- Medication administration techniques
- Specific problems related to medicine use
- Possibility of pregnancy in women of child bearing age.



# Questions to be Ask

- Which community pharmacy do you use?
- Any allergies to medications and what was the reaction?
- Which medications are you currently taking:
  - ✓ The name of the medication
  - ✓ The dosage form
  - ✓ The amount (specifically the dose)
  - ✓ How are they taking it (by which route)
  - ✓ How many times a day
  - ✓ Any specific times
  - ✓ For what reason (if not known or obvious)





- What prescription medications are you taking on a regular or as needed basis?
- What over-the-counter (non-prescription) medications are you taking on a regular or as needed basis?
- What herbal or natural medicines are you taking on a regular or as needed basis?
- What vitamins or other supplements are you taking?

# Medication History Taking TIPS

## □ Prompt for:

- Pain medications
- Stomach medications
- Medications for bowels
- Sleeping aids
- Samples
- Eye or ear drops, nose sprays
- Patches, creams & ointments
- Inhalers (puffers)
- Injections (needles)



## **If medication vials available**

- Review each medication vials with patient
- Confirm content of bottle
- Confirm instructions on prescription vials are current

## **If medication list available**

- Review each medication with patient
- Confirm that it is current

## **If bubble packs available**

- Review each medication with patient
- Confirm patient is taking entire contents



# Steps involved in Medication History Interview

1. Patient Selection
2. Self Preparation
3. Privacy and confidentiality
4. Purpose of interview
5. Conduct interview
6. Conclusion
7. Document and follow-up

# 1. Patient Selection

- Ideally all patients
- Consider family members or relatives
- Certain diseases it is not possible to take medication history interview like psychiatric disorders, impaired cognition etc.  
Eg: Patient with polypharmacy, Multiple and chronic diseases.
- If not possible priority should be given to those who are more likely to get benefit.



## 2. Self Preparation

- Preparation of list of questions can be helpful
- Provisional list of medications can be made through medical notes
- Make use of various sources of data
- Collect all the relevant data including co- morbid conditions



# 3. Privacy and Confidentiality

- Consider privacy and confidentiality of the patient
- Hospital setting – difficult to maintain because interviews are taken at bedside
- Patient unable to communicate – family members can be involved
- Must maintain confidentiality of the data except for exchange of information with other health care professionals.



## 4. Purpose of Interview

- Introduce him/herself and explain the purpose of interview
- Possible benefits should also be explained
- Respect patient right to decline the interview





## 5. Conduct Interview

- All the questions asked appropriately
- Close ended questions may be useful to confirm details
- Where possible ask open ended questions
- Use proper communication skills during interview



## 6. Conclusion

- Ask patient if he/she has any questions relating to the medications.
- Check whether all important and relevant details obtained



## 7. Documentation and follow up

- Documented information will be helpful for ongoing pharmaceutical care
- If any discrepancies - informed to the concerned physician
- Documented medications should be compared with the information obtained from health care professionals for any discrepancies.
- All information should be documented

# Cards for Medication History Script

## MEDICATION HISTORY SCRIPT

### Allergies

- Do you have an allergy to or avoid any medications due to side effects?
- What type of reaction do you have?

### Prescription Medications

- What prescription medications do you take on a regular basis?
- When do you take them?

### Non-prescription Medications

- What non-prescription over-the-counter medications do you take on a regular basis?
- When do you take them?

### Herbals, Supplements, Vitamins

- What herbal, natural or homeopathic remedies do you take?
- What vitamins or minerals do you take?
- When do you take them?

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

### Do you use any:

- Eye drops
- Nose sprays
- Puffers (inhalers)
- Medicated lotions or creams
- Medicated patches

### Do you receive any:

- Needles (injections)
- Samples from the doctor's office
- Study medications

### Do you take any medication on a regular basis for:

- Sleep
- Your stomach
- Your bowels
- Pain

Did you or your doctor recently change or stop any of your medication?



**Thank You**