## Stay Smart, Stay Safe: Taking medication the right way



Your health matters to us! Visit <u>KY-SPIN</u> to find more worksheets and webinars that can help you take charge.

1

Know what medications you are taking

2

Take medications on time and as directed

3

Check medications for cross reactions



### What To Do If You Do Not Have Your Medication List

1

#### Remember Your Routine

Think about when you take your medicines — morning, afternoon, or night — and how many pills you usually take at each time.



Example: "I take two pills in the morning and one at bedtime."

2

#### **Know the Purpose**

Be able to describe what each medicine helps with.



Example: "One helps with my anxiety," or "This one is for my blood pressure."



#### **Describe What They Look Like**

Try to remember the color, shape, or size of your pills or the type of container they come in.



Example: "It's a small blue round pill in a white bottle."



#### Share Who Helps You Manage Them

Give the name of your doctor, pharmacist, or caregiver who knows your medication list.



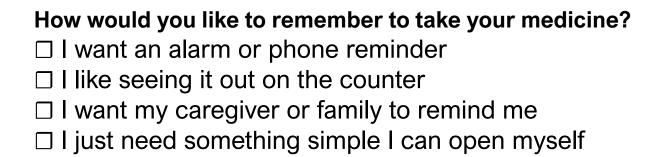
Example: "You can call my doctor at Med Clinic" or "My mom keeps my list at home."



#### Alarm. Reminder. Routine. Repeat.

Your medication can only help if you take them the right way. Forgetting or doubling up on doses can mess with how your medicine works — stay smart, stay safe, stay on schedule. Use a **pill organizer**, **phone reminder**, **or app** to stay on track.

# How often do you take your medicine? ☐ Once a day ☐ Twice a day (morning and night) ☐ Several times a day ☐ Only on certain days What kind of pill organizer would be easiest for you to use? ☐ One with big, easy-to-open lids ☐ One that lights up, beeps, or gives reminders ☐ One that can be refilled for the whole week



☐ One that you can carry with you (small travel size)







<sup>\*\*&</sup>lt;u>KATS Network</u>is a good place to start your search

#### Mixing It Up? Not with Medicine.

Cold medications, allergy pills, vitamins, energy drinks—they don't always play nice together. Know what you're taking before you take it.

If you already take a prescription medicine and you feel sick (like you have a cold or headache), what should you do before taking something new from the store?

Write or draw your answer:



Who could you ask if you aren't sure whether two medicines are safe to take together?

$\square$ A c	loctor	or	nurse
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- ☐ A pharmacist at the drugstore
- ☐ A friend or family member
- ☐ I'm not sure but I could ask \_\_\_\_\_

