



PSsT

General Patient Safety Tips



- Hand washing and hand sanitizing are key to patient safety and avoiding spread of infections.
- Understand your treatment plan and expected outcomes for all conditions.
- Do not be nervous to ask someone to repeat themselves.
- Make sure that all of your doctors know about all medications you are taking including prescription, over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements such as vitamins and herbs.
- Before leaving your pharmacy, open the bag and check for your name and the name of the medication.
- Ask your doctor to rewrite any prescriptions or directions that you cannot read.
- Do not settle if you cannot obtain a medication from your pharmacy. Ask where you are able to get it. Check with your doctor for samples.
- Write down questions before entering a hospital or doctor's office.
- Include an advocate in your healthcare; ask them to write down anything the doctor says.
- If you have a test, do not assume that no news is good news. Get results.
- Repeat everything you may have already told the person before.
- Make sure you are able to read and understand your discharge plan. Ask them to rewrite anything you are unable to read.
- Make sure that all health professionals involved in your healthcare have important health information about you in written form and or verbally as needed.
- If you feel any different for the worse, never hesitate to get in touch with your doctor right away.

For more information about patient safety and what you can do to prevent medical errors, call PULSE at (516) 579-4711 – PULSE offers community programs and support related to patient safety and medical errors.