

How to be safe with hazardous medicines



What are hazardous medicines?

Some medicines may be hazardous, or harmful, to people giving them. This means:

- Touching them could cause changes within their own body's cells and tissues.
- It is important to follow special steps to protect themselves from these changes.

Ask the care team what medicines your child needs and why they need them. Examples of what these medicines may be used for are:

- Hormones
- Seizures
- Fungal and yeast infections
- Depression and anxiety
- High blood pressure
- Children who have had a transplant

What special steps do I need to follow?

Follow these guidelines to help keep you and your family safe:

- Keep medicine in their original bottle or container.
- Store medicine where children and pets cannot get to them.
- Always wear gloves when touching, preparing and giving these medicines. This includes pills and injections (shots).
- If your child's medicine is a pill:
 - Drop it into a plastic medicine cup right after opening the bottle. Most often, you can buy these at a drugstore or online. You can also ask your child's pharmacist if they have some.
 - If you do not have a plastic medicine cup, use the medicine bottle cap instead.
- Give medicine right after you prepare it.
- Throw away your gloves and the medicine cup. Put them in a double bag or heavy-duty trash bag before throwing them into the trash. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
- Put empty bottles in the trash. Do not recycle them.
- If you need to throw away your child's urine, stool or vomit, put them in a double bag or heavy-duty trash bag before throwing them into the trash. Wash your hands well with soap and water.
- Call your child's doctor if you have questions about the medicine.
- Call the Georgia Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222 or call 911 **right away** if your child takes too much medicine or has a bad reaction to any medicine.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.