When it comes to using medicine, there is no such thing as completely safe. All medicines have risks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of a drug means that the benefits outweigh the known risks that are outlined on the drug’s label.

Physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists and YOU make up your health care team. To reduce the risks related to using medicines and to get the maximum benefit, you need to play an active role on the team.

**QUESTION GUIDE**

Use this guide to gather the information you need to know from your health care team.

- What are the brand and generic names of the medicine? Can I use a generic form?
- What is the medicine for and what effect should I expect? Does this drug replace any other medicine I have been using?
- How and when will I use it, what amount will I use, and for how long? What do I do if I miss a dose?
- Should I avoid any other medicines, (prescription or over-the-counter), dietary supplements, drinks, foods or activities while using this drug?
- When should I notice a difference or improvement? When should I report back to the team? Will I need to have any testing to monitor this drug’s effects?
- Can this medicine be used safely with all my other medications and therapies? Could there be interactions?
- What are the possible side effects? What do I do if a side effect occurs?
- What other medicines or therapies could be used to treat this condition? How do the risks and benefits compare?
- How and where do I store this medicine?
- Where and how can I get written information about this medicine? What other sources of information can I use to make my decision?

For more information, visit our web site at www.fda.gov/cder or call 1-888-INFO-FDA.
Report Back to the Team

Pay attention to how you feel and notify your health care team of any problems.

If you have doubts that the medicine is working effectively, don’t stop taking it without checking with the team.

Some medications take longer to show a benefit, and some need to be withdrawn gradually to decrease undesirable effects.

If you experience a side effect, let your health care team know immediately. An adjustment in the dosage or a change in medication may be needed.

Go to www.fda.gov/cder or call 1 (888) INFO-FDA for more information about how to be an active member of your health care team and additional drug information.