

Q & A

Pharmacy Questions & Tips



Q: *Why do my medications sometimes look different when I pick up a new bottle at the pharmacy?*

A: Sometimes a pharmacy has to change manufacturers of a medication. Check the bottle for a sticker that indicates it is a different brand or manufacturer of the same medicine. You can also call the pharmacy (the number should be printed on your prescription bottle or container) to make sure the medication is correct.

Q: *I have trouble swallowing one of my medications. What can I do?*

A: About one in three people have problems swallowing medications, but there are things you can try. Put the medication in a soft food. Drink plenty of water or other liquid. Ask your provider or pharmacist if the medication can be crushed, or if it is a capsule, sprinkled in food or drink. Ask if the medication comes in an alternative form such as a powder or liquid.

Q: *I took my medications out of the bottles and now I'm not sure which one is which. What should I do?*

A: Many prescription bottles or containers will have a physical description of the tablet or capsule inside. (See sample below.) This can be used to match the description with the name. If this is unavailable, or if you just want to be sure, you can call your pharmacy and describe the shape, color and any markings on the tablet or capsule.



Local Pharmacy
123 ANY STREET
TOWNVILLE, ST 12345
Ph: (800) 555-1234

RX# 0012304-1234
JOHN SMITH

**TAKE ONE TABLET
BY MOUTH ONCE DAILY**

GENERICDRUGNAME 500MG

**QTY: 30
NO REFILLS - DR. AUTHORIZATION
REQUIRED**

USE BEFORE 10/31/19



**Avoid
alcoholic
beverages.**



**Round White
GG**

Q: *Where can I get rid of my unwanted or old medications?*

A: There are many prescription drug take-back locations and events. Often local police stations, sheriffs' departments, hospitals or pharmacies host these events or stations. For the current take back locations in your state, [visit the Drug Enforcement Administration \(DEA\) website](#). Some facilities also have year-round collection sites that can be found on [the U.S. Department of Justice's website](#). If you cannot get to a drug take back location, some medications can be disposed of at home. [Visit the Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) medication disposal site](#) for more information.



Reference: "So You Think You Can't Swallow Pills." *Pharmacist's Letter/Prescriber's Letter*. ©2015 by Therapeutic Research Center. www.PharmacistsLetter.com

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