

Preventing Medication Errors

Medication errors occur throughout the healthcare system. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) suggests the following to prevent medication errors:

- Make sure doctors know about everything you are taking, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, and dietary supplements such as vitamins and herbs
- Tell doctors about any allergies and adverse reactions you have had to medicines
- Make sure you can read a prescription your doctor writes
- When medicine is prescribed and when you receive it, ask for information in terms that you can understand
- When you receive the medicine, be sure it's what your doctor prescribed
- If you have questions about the directions on the label, ask
- Ask about the best way to measure liquids, and for written information about side effects

The Health Plan's Prescription Drug Mail Order Service and Network Retail Pharmacies check for any potential drug interactions when they fill your prescriptions. Written safety precautions are sent with every new prescription mailed by the Mail Order Service Pharmacy.