

What is Patient Safety Week?

Patient safety is always a priority. A focused Patient Safety Week is a chance to highlight a particular patient safety issue or topic.

Medication safety focus

This year's Patient Safety Week focus is medication safety. We know that medication errors take place and cause avoidable harm.

Messages

The main national message to consumers, families and whānau is to ask about their medicines, with three key questions as prompts:

- What is my medicine called?
- What is it for?
- When and how do I take it?

The questions are envisaged as conversation starters, from which other questions will flow and a discussion between consumers and health professionals will take place.

We want consumers to feel empowered and encouraged to ask questions to help them better understand their medicines.

Some of the things health professionals can consider are:

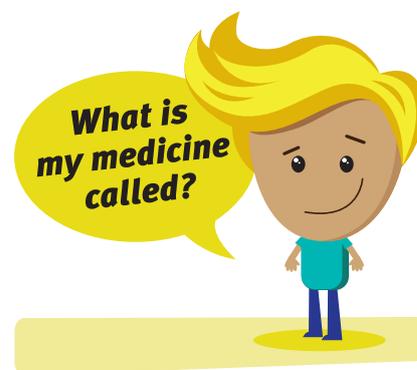
- the importance of giving consumers time – their questions are valid

- what is common for you may be unusual, confusing and challenging for consumers
- knowledge is power – the more a consumer knows, the less likely they are to make a mistake with their medicines
- cost could be a barrier to consumers filling prescriptions and continuing to take medication – talk to them about this
- practising the three steps to better health literacy: find out what people know, build health literacy skills and knowledge, and check you were clear.

Is it just about one week?

Patient Safety Week is about introducing a focus on a topic. Promotions can last well beyond a week if our organisation wishes. It may be as simple as focusing on one aspect of medication safety to begin with. Some organisations partner with others in their community to promote key messages (for example, DHBs partnering with community pharmacies).

Let's
Talk
Medicines



What is my organisation doing for Patient Safety Week?

Our contact person is

#PSWNZ

Patient Safety Week is brought to you by the Health Quality & Safety Commission, together with ACC.