

Compliance

Taking the right amount of a drug at the right time for the total length of days of treatment.



It's common for a visit to your doctor's office to end with a written prescription for medications. Those little pieces of paper are extremely important for you, your child and your pharmacist. They provide the exact medication directions for the pharmacist to dispense, and for you to administer, in order to properly treat your child's symptoms. The speedy control of disease requires that your child take all the doses at the proper intervals of time. This requires compliance, which you know is not an easy thing. Yet for your child, being almost 100% compliant is almost as critical as the medicine itself.



How important is it for your child to take all the medicine?

Skipping doses or forgetting to take medications or ending a drug regimen early are serious matters. In fact, not finishing a complete treatment program or not following directions from your pediatrician and/or pharmacist can be harmful to your child's health.

In order for a drug to be effective it must circulate in the blood system to the ailing tissues. Some drugs require only one dose per day and persist in the body for 24 hours. Others, however, are destroyed or excreted by the body, and require more frequent dosing. For children taking liquid medications, compliance can be particularly difficult to achieve when medications are bitter, sour or foul-smelling. In fact, The Academy of Pediatrics estimates that compliance in children is as low as 53%, indicating that children frequently fail to take medications properly. Therefore, drugs are not made available in the body to combat disease.