

Health Bulletin

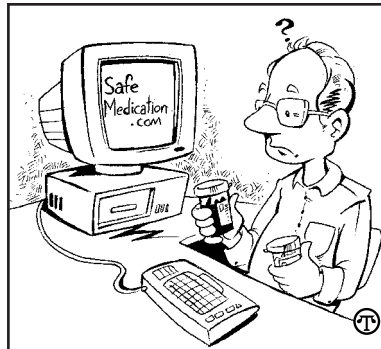
Protect Yourself From Medication Errors

(NAPSA)—Did you know that almost half of Americans take at least one prescription medication each day? And that more than a quarter take multiple prescription medications daily? A new study by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) offers a tantalizing look at how many prescription and non-prescription drugs consumers take each week.

Taking multiple medications can be problematic because it raises the risk of drug interactions and exposes patients to the possibility of medication error. Drug dispensing mistakes can occur for a variety of reasons including:

- Illegible handwriting by the prescriber,
- Misinterpreted abbreviations, or
- Confusion caused by drug products that look alike or sound alike.

Fortunately, there is a Web site that makes it easy to find comprehensive, easy-to-understand information on more than 700 drugs. Safemedication.com offers information on why medicines are prescribed, how they should be used, potential side effects, warning signs of adverse drug reactions, special precautions and dietary and storage instructions, and information on what to do if a dose is missed. The Web site also provides timely health and medication news and tips to prevent medication errors and antibiotic resistance.



Look for helpful information on your medicine by checking out www.safemedication.com.

“Because today’s medicines are so complex and powerful, patients need reliable, easy-to-use resources more than ever. Who better to provide that information than pharmacists who work in hospitals and health systems?” said Society President Mick L. Hunt, M.S., FASHP. “Having access to Safemedication.com provides patients with much-needed peace of mind.”

ASHP is the 30,000-member national professional association that represents pharmacists who practice in hospitals, health maintenance organizations, long-term care facilities, homecare and other components of health-care systems.

For more information on health-system pharmacists’ role in the safe and effective use of medicine, check out the Web sites at www.safemedication.com, or www.ashp.org.