

Medicines Use Review

Suggested Questions

1. How are you getting on with your medicines?

This is an open question to get the patient talking and bringing out any issues which are important to them. These can be dealt with here rather than waiting until the appropriate question below. It is also a good opportunity to find out if they are taking any OTC medicines.

2. How do you take or use each of these medicines?

This is an opportunity to get users of inhalation devices to demonstrate their usage and for any technique issues to be explored.

3. Are you having any problems with your medicines, or concerns about taking or using them?

GROUP BY THERAPEUTIC AREAS

4. Do you think they are working? (Prompt: is this different from what you were expecting?)

This gives a chance to discuss that some patients will not feel any different if some of their medicines are working.

Do they know what it is for? It would be useful to say a little about how the medicines work. Some patients may feel happier and more content to take the medicine if they have a rational explanation of how it helps their condition.

5. Do you think you are getting any side effects or unexpected effects?

If the patient feels different it may lead them to change their behaviour, even though it is not a side effect of the medicine. This may also be an opportunity for you or the patient to fill in a Yellow Card.

This is an opportunity to discuss whether side effects are likely to be transitory and what can be done to minimise them. If severe, the pharmacist could suggest a return to the prescriber and possibly cessation of the medicine.

This could also alert to serious side effects that may occur and would involve an immediate need to take action.

6. People often miss taking doses of their medicines, for a wide range of reasons. Have you missed any doses of your medicine, or changed when you take it? (Prompt: when did you last miss a dose?)

This question may be a bit challenging so is further down the interview schedule - however on the other hand it may not need to be asked as the issues may already have emerged. It is necessary to explore the reason(s) why this has happened. Was it intentional or not? Was it appropriate (e.g. missing a morning dose of a diuretic because they had a long bus journey)?

Does the patient understand why the medicine is necessary?

7. Do you have anything else you would like to know about your medicines or is there anything you would like me to go over again? (Prompt: Are you happy with the information you have on your medicines?)