Reconciliation of Medications In Hospitals

* Hospitals will soon start reconciling medications upon admission, during transfers between levels of care, and upon discharge in order to reduce the incidence of drug-related problems that can occur during these times.

* Since an accurate medication history is the starting point for this process, it is important that you (or a family member) keep this form up to date.

* It is also important to carry this with you at all times in case of emergencies.

* The Patient Medication History Form must include the following:
  - <All current prescribed drugs taken regularly
  - <All current prescribed drugs taken occasionally
  - <All over-the-counter (OTC) drugs
  - <All herbal preparations
  - <Vitamins and dietary supplements

* List routinely used drugs first followed by those used occasionally.

* Use "as needed" for the directions of drugs used occasionally.

* Be sure to include the reason or condition that you are taking each item.

To Prevent Medication Mishaps in the Hospital or Clinic

> Share your medication history upon admission
> Make sure that all care givers check your wristband
> Ask about all new medications that you are started on
> Notify your nurse if you don't feel well after taking a new drug for the first time
> Notify your nurse if a dose is missed
> Ask for help immediately if you think you are having an allergic reaction
> Read the contents of all bags of IV drugs and ask how long it should take for the fluid to run in.
> Before leaving the hospital or clinic, make sure you understand all of the instructions for the drugs you will need to keep taking.
> Ask about whether it is safe to continue taking those drugs at home that were not continued in the hospital

Individual Medication History Form

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Medical Conditions _____

Immunization Record (Record the date/yr. of last dose if known)			
Flu Vaccine		Hepatitus vaccine	
Pneumonia vaccine		Tetanus vaccine	
Other vaccine		Other vaccine	

Medication allergy: _____ Reaction: _____
Medication allergy: _____ Reaction: _____
Medication allergy: _____ Reaction: _____
Medication allergy: _____ Reaction: _____
Medication allergy: _____ Reaction: _____

****Medications**

Name	Dose	Directions for Use (Frequency)	Reason for Medication
i.e. Advil (ibuprophen)	200mg.	1 or 2 as needed	Pain/soreness

**Prescription/Over the Counter/ Herbals/Vitamins/Supplements

Caregiver Names and Contact Phone Numbers

	Name	Phone Number
Primary Physician		
Physician		
Physician		
Physician		
Physician		
Drugstore		
Other		
Other		

**** Medications**

Name	Dose	Directions for Use (Frequency)	Reason for Medication

**Prescription/Over the Counter/ Herbals/Vitamins/Supplements

Virginia Society of Health System Pharmacists
Your Partner for Medication Safety

The Importance of a Medication History

1. It has been estimated that as many as 8.8 million people are admitted to hospitals each year due to **preventable adverse drug events**, which cost the healthcare system as much as $30 billion dollars annually.

2. Adverse drug events (ADE) include not only unwanted reactions but also the consequences of **noncompliance** (taking too much or too little of a drug).

3. Medication related illness not only increases costs, but also significantly prolongs hospital stays and increases the risk of death almost 2-fold.

* Many medications including herbals, can interact to cause ADE's.

* Patients at risk of developing drug-related problems include the following:

Adverse Reactions	Noncompliance
Patients with kidney disease	Patients with depression
Patients with liver disease	Drugs that can cause confusion
Patients with sight/reading problems	Drugs that can cause drowsiness
Non-English speaking patients	Drugs that are expensive
Patients taking >7 medications	Drugs with unwanted side effects
Patients with many drug allergies	Drugs with multiple dose times
Patients starting new drugs	Brand vs. generic name confusion

* Other factors that can cause drug-related problems include self medicating with "old" prescriptions, "borrowing" medications from others, and not telling your doctor or pharmacist about **all** of your medications and herbals.