

Questions and Answers About Your Medication History

Why does Intermountain want my medication history?

At Intermountain Healthcare we're always working to improve the quality of care you receive. Right now, we're joining other clinics, hospitals and health systems across the country to enhance the prescription process. We're working to eliminate hand-written, paper prescriptions and moving to prescriptions that are issued electronically with a computer. This is called e-Prescribing.

Several things make e-Prescribing better than paper prescriptions. One of these is that Intermountain can collect and review your medication history when you come to us for treatment. A medication history is a list of prescription medicines that any doctor, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant has prescribed within the past two years. The list is collected—at no cost to you—from all participating health insurers.

How is my medication history used?

With a correct medication history, we can more easily take care of your medication needs without the risk of prescribing drugs that may be incompatible with medicine you're already taking. This protects you and your family if you are treated by a doctor or medical care giver who doesn't know your medical history. This could happen on vacation or when you see a new doctor. If you ever need emergency care, your past medication history is one of the most important pieces of information that your emergency room doctor will need to provide safe, accurate, and timely care.

How is my medication history protected?

The information we get from any outside medication history source can be kept as part of your Intermountain electronic health record. Only doctors or medical care givers who are directly taking care of your healthcare needs can view this information. As with any medical record, this information is protected under the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other state laws.

What information is included in the history?

The medication history contains information about your prescriptions that have been filled at any pharmacy or covered by any health insurance plan over the past two years. All of this information becomes part of your medical record.

What is NOT included in the history?

While your medication history is an extremely important and useful guide to the type of care you should receive, it may not be complete. Some pharmacies do not make prescription histories available to us, and the history from your health plan might not include medications that you purchased without using your health insurance. In addition, your medication history might not include over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal remedies. As a result, during your office visits we'll still ask you about everything you are taking, and we'll review your medication history with you to make sure the information is correct.