

EPILEPSY ACTION



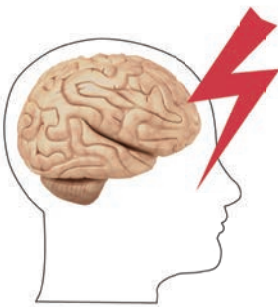
Getting the right epilepsy medicine for you



About epilepsy



Epilepsy is a condition that happens in your brain.



Everyone has electricity in their brain.



When you have epilepsy, you have **seizures**. We say this as **see zhures**.



A **seizure** happens when the electricity in your brain goes wrong.

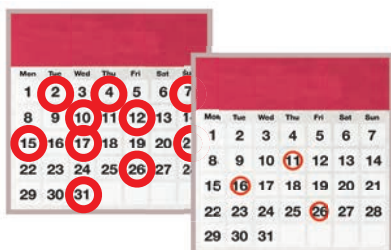
This stops your brain from working properly. Some people call seizures **fits**.



Most people with epilepsy need to take medicine.



The medicine can help to control your seizures.



You might still have some seizures, but they may not happen as often.



Your doctor will try to find medicine that is right for you.

Taking your prescription to the pharmacy



Your doctor will write you a **prescription**. It says what kind of medicine you need and how much.



You take your prescription to the pharmacy.



Staff at the pharmacy will look at it and get your medicine.



Sometimes lots of different companies make the same kinds of medicine.



The medicines work in the same way but might be a little bit different.



Staff at the pharmacy might not give you medicine made by the same company as before.



For some people this is fine.
The medicine still works in the same way.

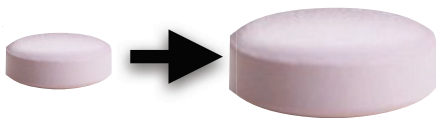


For some people it is not ok.
The medicine might not work well for them.

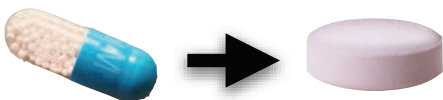


Or it might have changed in other ways like:

- It is a tablet instead of a liquid.



- It might be a big tablet instead of a little one.



- It might be a different shape.



Your doctor or nurse will tell you if you can have medicine made by a different company.

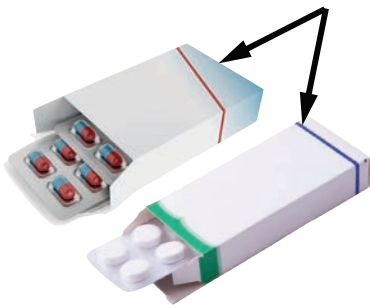
Checking your medicine at the pharmacy



If you **cannot** have a different medicine, it is important to check it before you leave the pharmacy.

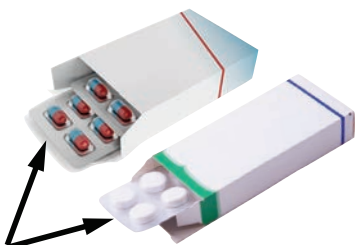
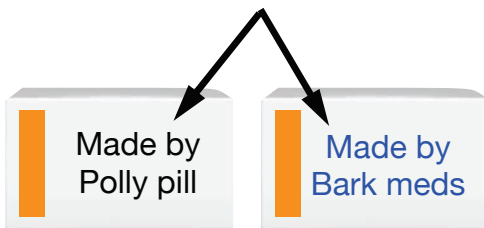


This is because staff at the pharmacy might not tell you they have swapped it.



Here are some checks you can do:

- Does the box look the same as last time?
- Does it have the same company name on it?
- Does the medicine inside look the same shape, size and colour?





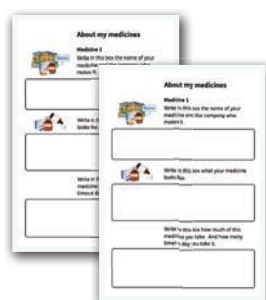
If you think it is not right, tell the pharmacy staff straight away.



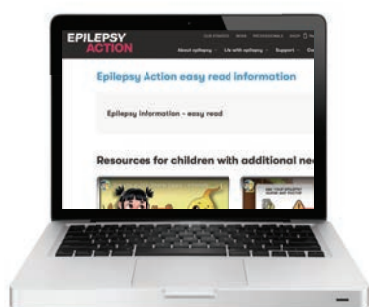
You can take your old medicine box with you to the pharmacy. This will help you check if it is the same.



Or you can write down useful information about your medicines.



Use the boxes on pages 10 and 11 of this booklet to help you.



If you need to use more pages, look on our website:

epilepsy.org.uk/mymeds

What to do if the pharmacy does not have your medicine



The pharmacy might not have the right medicine.



Ask staff at the pharmacy how to take your prescription to another pharmacy.



If you run out of medicine or cannot get your usual kind of medicine, speak to your doctor, nurse or the pharmacy.



If the doctors or pharmacy are closed call NHS 111. They can tell you what to do.

About my medicines



Medicine 1

Write in this box the name of your medicine and the company who makes it.



Write in this box what your medicine looks like.



Write in this box how much of this medicine you take. And how many times a day you take it.



Medicine 2

Write in this box the name of your medicine and the company who makes it.



Write in this box what your medicine looks like.



Write in this box how much of this medicine you take. And how many times a day you take it.

How to contact our helpline



You can contact us for more information about epilepsy.



Phone us:

0800 800 5050



Look online:

www.epilepsy.org.uk/helpline



It is not in easy read.

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Epilepsy Action have full editorial control.
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Patient Information Forum