Questions to Ask Before Leaving the Hospital

Bring this to the bedside on discharge day. These questions are for the doctor, nurse, pharmacist and therapist: what happened, what changes at home, and who to call.

Write each answer down and note who gave it. If an answer uses words you don't know, ask the person to say it another way. Questions about coverage and where your parent goes next are on our separate *Questions to Ask the Hospital Discharge Planner* printable.

About the hospital stay

1. **What was the main reason for this stay, in words we can repeat to other doctors?**

2. **What tests or procedures were done, and what did they show?**

3. **Are any test results still pending? Who will tell us, and when?**

Medicines

4. **Which medicines are new, which have changed, and which should stop? Why?**

5. **When is the next dose of each one due, today and tonight?**

6. **Which side effects should we watch for, and which ones mean we should call?**

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Daily life at home

7. **What can and can't she do yet: walking, stairs, bathing, lifting, driving?**

8. **Are there any changes to what she eats or drinks?**

9. **Is there a wound, drain, catheter or device to care for? Can you show us now, and watch us do it?**

Follow-up

10. **Which doctors should she see, and by when? Who is making those appointments?**

11. **Will home health or outpatient therapy come? When is the first visit, and who will call us?**

Warning signs and who to call

12. **Which signs mean we should call her doctor today?**

13. **Which signs mean we should call 911?**

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14. **Who do we call with questions at night or on a weekend? What is the number?**

> **Say it back**
> Before you leave, tell the nurse in your own words what you will do at home: the medicines, the care and the warning signs. If anything sounds different from what they meant, they can fix it now, before you are on your own.

Who answered

Role	Name	Phone or extension
Doctor		
Nurse		
Pharmacist		
Therapist (PT or OT)		
Discharge planner		

> **The care team has the final word**
> Ask the hospital team or your parent's doctor about anything on this list that is unclear. This checklist helps you organize; it does not replace their instructions.

The other checklists in this set: Preparing for a Parent's Hospital Discharge · Questions to Ask Before Leaving the Hospital · The First 72 Hours at Home · Understanding Medication Changes After Hospitalization · Getting the Home Ready for Home Health Services. All at AgingAtHomeSupport.com/hospital-discharge-checklists/

For the whole discharge in one place, the Coming Home from the Hospital workbook (21 fill-in pages) is at AgingAtHomeSupport.com/coming-home-from-the-hospital-workbook/

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