



What Your Oncology Pharmacist Does

The oncology pharmacist has received special training to learn about medicines used to treat cancer and certain diseases of the blood. These medicines are not simple. The pharmacist must know all about them, and about you, before you get them. Oncology pharmacists try to give you, your physicians, and other members of your cancer team important information to make sure you get the best result from your medicines.

Preparing the Medicines

Pharmacists are responsible for preparing the medicine you take. The medicines that fight cancer must be carefully prepared to make sure that they are safe and will have the best chance to work. This process takes time, but it is very important. Pharmacists who do this work take these steps:

- They look carefully at the medicines ordered by the doctor.
- They check to make sure that you are getting the right amount of the medicine.



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- They look at what your doctor has learned about your body (from the results of tests your doctor has ordered) to make sure that it is safe for you to take the medicine.
- They ask you about other medicines or vitamins you are taking that could cause your cancer medicine not to work well.
- They make sure that you get the right medicine for you.



Helping You When You Get Home

Your oncology pharmacist knows the best way for you to take your cancer medicine and the best way for you to store it at home. He or she will be able to help you if you think the medicine is causing you not to feel well. Your pharmacist can help in these ways:

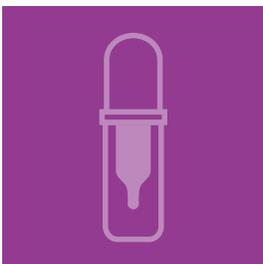
- by telling you whether your medicine should be taken with or without food
- by looking at other medicines you are taking to see if they are changing how your cancer medicine works or if they are causing any problems
- by working to solve problems if your cancer medicine is making you feel bad
- by working with other pharmacists if you need help getting your medicines
- by finding ways to save you money on the cancer medicines you are taking.



Being Part of Your Healthcare Team

The oncology pharmacist may work at a clinic or hospital instead of at the pharmacy in your neighborhood. He or she is part of the team of people who are taking care of you and will help choose the best medicines for you. Your pharmacist will look for ways that the medicine may be making you feel bad. He or she will help you understand how your medicine works and learn what things you can do to feel better.

If you have any questions, be sure to ask to speak to your pharmacist.



We are here to help you with your medicine!