

## Do not take / use the medications if...



The medications have expired.



The medications have degraded (e.g. change in colour, odour or turned turbid).



The eye drops, eye ointment or eye gel have already been opened for one month or longer, unless otherwise specified.



The medication label cannot be read.



The medications in any of the above scenarios are no longer suitable for use. Dispose of them immediately to avoid potential misuse.

## How to dispose of your medications



Check the expiry / dispensing date regularly. Discard medications that have expired or are no longer required as general household waste.



# Advice on the storage of medications



**Improper storage of medications is the main cause of accidental misuse, which can be harmful to health or even lead to death. Store your medications properly to protect you and your family from unnecessary harm.**

The information in this leaflet is compiled by the Hospital Authority (HA) for general educational purpose and reference only. Whilst efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, no guarantee can be provided as to the completeness, timeliness or usefulness of the information, or that the information is the most updated. HA cannot warrant that the information provided can meet your health or medical requirements. Always seek the advice of your doctor or pharmacist for any medical condition that you may have, rather than relying only on the information provided on this leaflet.

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藥劑職系及服務統籌委員會  
COC-Grade (Pharmaceutical Services)

# How to store your medications



Store in a cool, dry place and away from direct heat and light. Medications are usually stored at room temperature. However, some medications are required to be stored in a refrigerator. Always store medications according to the instructions specified on the drug labels or package inserts.



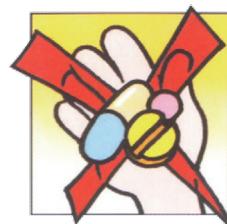
If your medications are dispensed in transparent containers or plastic bags, keep them away from light, e.g. store them inside a drawer or cabinet.



Do not store medications in the bathroom or kitchen since the higher temperature and humidity there may affect the quality of the medications.



Keep medications out of reach of children to avoid accidental ingestion.



Store medications in the original container; do not mix different medications together in the same container, except when a pill organiser is used.



Store oral and external use medications separately.



Keep individual's medications separated from those of other family members. This will reduce the chance of using the wrong medications by mistake.



Do not share medications with others, even if having similar symptoms. Misuse of medications can result in serious adverse effects.



Store food and medications separately.



Keep the label of the original container or drug bag and pay attention to the labelling information, including drug name, dosage, precautions and expiry / dispensing date, etc., to avoid confusion and potential misuse.



Never keep medications in a car. The temperature inside the car can vary significantly and will affect the quality of the medications.



If traveling by air, keep your medications in your carry-on bag, because:

- You can access your medications when needed.
- If your checked luggage is lost, you can still have sufficient medications to cover.
- The storage condition of the checked luggage can be extreme, hence not a good storage environment for the medications.



If traveling by air, medications in liquid, aerosol or gel form stored in containers larger than 100ml in a carry-on bag should be presented separately to the security screening officer for inspection. You may be asked to provide verification for the product, such as a doctor's letter, proof of prescription or passenger's name printed on the medication label for inspection. For details, please consult your airline or civil aviation department.