

# Using Medicines Wisely

After they introduce a new medicine, medical device, health or personal care product, our companies work to help health care professionals, patients or consumers understand how to use it properly.

Health care professionals need accurate and reliable information on how our medicines and other health care products should be used in a safe and effective manner. Our pharmaceutical and medical device companies around the world provide this information in a number of ways, including:

- Product labels that include safety information
- Locally appropriate “Prescribing Information” or “Instructions for Use” leaflets for physicians.
- Support of medical education programs such as medical congresses, courses, articles in scientific magazines, and educational and training materials.
- Scientific affairs liaisons and professional sales representatives who interact with doctors and other health care professionals.
- Health information websites supported by our operating companies and that health care professionals can access.

Our companies also inform patients and consumers about how to use our products safely and effectively. We also encourage patients to speak with their doctors or other health care professionals about their safety concerns. Many of our companies offer information about appropriate use on their websites and through brochures, newsletters and other outreach efforts.

## Educational Resources

Additional educational resources help people understand medications and how to them properly. Examples include:

- Answers in the Aisles, [www.answersintheaisles.com](http://www.answersintheaisles.com), a website that helps people make informed decisions about over-the-counter medicines.
- Rx for Safety, [www.rxforsafety.com](http://www.rxforsafety.com), a website for both patients and healthcare professionals that contains information about safe medication use. The patient section includes tips and resources to help people get the full benefit of their medications, while avoiding problems.

## Benefits and Risks

Modern medicine has provided so many benefits for individuals and society as a whole that sometimes we forget that all medical treatments carry some risks of side effects in addition to the benefits they are designed to provide. At Johnson & Johnson, we are committed to helping doctors and patients maximize the potential benefits of therapies while minimizing risks. Our operating companies do this, in part, by monitoring and assessing the benefits and risks of our products on a constant basis and providing information to the medical community.

This information helps doctors and their patients assess the benefits and risk of various treatments. One example of a benefit risk assessment relates to the use of aspirin in the prevention and treatment of heart attacks and strokes. Today, aspirin is more commonly used for its cardiovascular benefits than for pain relief. But using aspirin in this way has potential side effects for some patients. Ongoing study of the best use of various treatments enables physicians and patients to make more informed decisions about when these therapies are appropriate.

Greater understanding of benefits and risks can help empower people to become more active participants, along with their health care providers, in evaluating their health care options and making better choices

Learn more about how health care communication and understanding contribute to better health at [Wellness, Prevention & Health Education](#)