



**Down's Syndrome
Association**

A Registered Charity No. 1061474

Living the Way You Want Series



Going to the chemist

Easy Read

A Down's Syndrome Association Publication

About this leaflet



→ This leaflet is made by the Down's Syndrome Association.



→ It is in Easy Read.

Easy Read means easy words with pictures to help everyone understand.



→ We ask **Having a Voice** groups to help us make Easy Read information.



→ **Having a Voice** groups are groups of people with Down's syndrome. They help people have their say.



→ **Having a Voice** groups make sure the Easy Read information is easy to understand.



→ You can find out more about **Having a Voice** on the Down's Syndrome Association website.

What is in this leaflet?



→ This leaflet is about going to a **chemist**.



→ A **chemist's** shop is also sometimes called a **pharmacy**.

What you can learn

You can learn about:



→ • what a chemist does and how they can help you



→ • where to find the chemist



→ • getting your medicine



- • paying for your medicine

What is a chemist's shop?



- A **chemist's** shop is where you go to get medicines.

A **chemist's** shop is sometimes called a **pharmacy**.

Who works at a chemist's shop?



- A **chemist** works at the chemist's shop. They are sometimes called a **pharmacist**.



- They know about medicines.



→ They are there to help you.

Where is the chemist?

You can find a chemist:



→ • on your local high street



→ • in a hospital



→ • ask your doctor where your nearest chemist is.



→ • there will usually be a green cross outside.

What happens when I go to the chemist?



→ You may need a **prescription** from your doctor.



→ A **prescription** is a piece of paper with the names of your medicines on it.



→ Your doctor can send your prescription to your chemist on their computer.

Ask your doctor if you can get a prescription on the computer.



→ Go to the chemist and show your **prescription** to the person at the counter.



→ The chemist will look at your prescription and get your medicine.



→ The chemist may ask you some questions.

They may ask you:



→ • your name



→ • where you live



→ • your birthday



→ • about any medicines you take



- • if you are **allergic** to any medicines



Allergic means you get very ill if you have it.



- You could ask someone you trust to come to the chemist with you to help you.

How a chemist can help you



- A chemist can help you with medicines.



- They can tell you how to keep your medicines safe.



→ They can help you remember to take your medicines.



→ They can tell you how your medicines can help you.



→ They can tell you if your medicine will make you feel strange or unwell.

These are called **side effects**.

Asking about your medicines



→ You can ask the chemist questions about your medicines.



→ Your chemist should listen to you and answer your questions.



→ You could ask:

- what does my medicine do?
- what happens if I don't take my medicine?
- when do I take my medicine?
- can I have food and water with my medicine?
- when can I stop taking my medicine?
- are there any unwanted effects?



→ If you are not sure about your medicine, ask the chemist to help you.

What else can my chemist help me with?

Your chemist can help you with:



→ • healthy eating



→ • losing weight



→ • if you have a cold or sore throat



→ • stopping smoking



→ Ask your chemist for more information.

Paying for your medicine



→ Some people have to pay for medicine. This is called a **prescription charge**.



→ A **prescription charge** may be payable.



→ Only people who live in England pay the **prescription charge**.



→ People in Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland get free medicines.

Some people in England can get free medicines.



→ Ask your chemist if you can get free medicines.

Medication passport



→ It can be hard to remember all the medicines you need.



→ A **medication passport** is a book where you can write down all your medicines.



→ You can take your medication passport to the chemist and your doctor.



→ This will help them know what medicines you take.



→ You can download a medication passport app on your phone or tablet

→ Ask the DSA about a medication passport.

Learn more about medicines



→ Your chemist can tell you more about medicines.



→ **EasyHealth** has Easy Read information about medicines:
www.easyhealth.org.uk

Type in **medicines** in the search bar at the top.

This website is not made by the DSA. We try to check websites, but we are not responsible for their content.

Thank you



→ Thank you for reading this leaflet!
We hope this leaflet has helped you.

Tell us what you think



→ We want to know what you think about this leaflet.

Email what you think to:
info@downs-syndrome.org.uk

Down's Syndrome Association



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The Down's Syndrome Association provides information and support on all aspects of living with Down's syndrome. We also work to champion the rights of people with Down's syndrome, by campaigning for change and challenging discrimination. A wide range of Down's Syndrome Association publications can be downloaded free of charge from our website.

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www.dsworkfit.org.uk



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MUSEUM OF
LEARNING
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