

# National Patient Safety Awareness Week

## Know Your Medications!

When receiving your medication, make sure that you understand all of the information below:

- What did your physician tell you the medication was for?
- Know the “Brand Name” —the name given to a medication by the manufacturer.
- Know the “Generic Name”—the chemical name of the medication.
- What will the medicine do?
- How did your physician tell you to take the medication?
- How many times a day?
- How much to take at one time?
- How long to take the medicine?
- How to take the medication (with water, juice, etc.)?
- When to take the medication (before or after meals)?
- What did the physician tell you to expect from the medication?
- What results to look for?
- What to do about possible side effects?
- What monitoring will be need to be done?
- How should you store the medication?
- How do you refill the medication if necessary?

Maintain a list of your medications and the times of day you take each medication. This drug list and schedule of doses is critical in keeping your medications organized. Ask your pharmacist to review your medication list and schedule.



For more information visit: [www.therenalnetwork.org](http://www.therenalnetwork.org)