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Refusal Of Medication



As a patient you have the right to refuse taking any prescribed medication, however it is important to note that if you do not take your prescribed medicine then a number of consequences can occur which include:

- **A delay in recovery due to the disease/condition being prolonged**
 - for example not taking the prescribed full course of antibiotics can cause the infection to persist.
- **A setback or exacerbation of the disease/condition.**
 - for example not taking the prescribed course of ventolin, a breathing medication, the patient may develop difficulty in breathing.
- **Protection against a serious illness is lost**
 - for example not taking the prescribed blood pressure medication can lead to heart disease, stroke or kidney failure.
- **Worsening of the condition if a dose is missed,**
 - For example, missing a dose of an anti-hypertensive medication can produce a dangerous “rebound effect,” in which blood pressure can rise even higher than what the levels were before the medications were started.
- **Cost of reconstituted medicine**
 - Patients will be billed for the charges incurred on the wastage of re constituted medicines where the discarding is because of patient refusal