

Essential information for hospital staff

Measures to ensure timely medication administration

- Permit and encourage self-medication where practical
- Document medication chart promptly: timing and dose are critical
- Some medications may be needed at irregular times.

Medications that **MUST** be **AVOIDED** in Parkinson's

- Anti-psychotics (eg Haloperidol)
- Prochlorperazine (Stemetil)
- Metoclopramide (Maxolon)

NB: If an anti-emetic is required use domperidone (Motilium).

Actions to consider if swallowing is difficult

- Arrange Speech Pathology review
- Consider posture and use of thickened fluids
- Avoid crushing medications as may alter rate of absorption
- Discuss alternate medications with treating Neurologist if swallowing an issue.

Communication tips

- Remove distractions (eg TV, radio, busy areas)
- Use simple phrases/avoid open ended questions
- Encourage patient to speak loudly if having difficulties hearing.

Parkinson's pointers

- Give me time when I am walking, talking or eating
- Speak normally and be patient
- Parkinson's affects facial muscles and emotions can be difficult to interpret
- Do not push or pull me if I am finding it difficult to move
- Ensure that I am sitting down before giving me a drink
- Parkinson's may worsen constipation.