

Concerns with Physician Dispensing



During a doctor's visit for your injury, your doctor may want to give you your prescription medication right from their office, rather than sending it to a local or mail order pharmacy. This practice is called physician dispensing.


However, while it may be convenient, physician dispensing limits the selection of medications available to you and does not allow for safety checks to be performed with the other medications you're taking. When you fill all of your prescriptions at one pharmacy, for instance, the pharmacist reviews your medication profile as a whole and makes sure it's safe to add any new medications to the mix. Specifically, a pharmacy will look for:

- Medications that interact with other medications and may cause harmful side effects
- Medications that may cause allergic reactions
- Medications that are similar to each other or have the same purpose (this is called therapeutic duplication)
- Doses that are too high
- Medications that can worsen an existing health condition (for example, avoiding decongestants when you have high blood pressure)


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What to Do: Ask your doctor to write a physical prescription or to send an electronic prescription to a nearby pharmacy.

If your employer's workers' compensation program uses Healthsystems to process prescriptions related to your workplace injury, there are other steps you can take:

- Find a pharmacy near you using our [Pharmacy Search tool](#) .
- If driving to a local pharmacy is not an option for you, Healthsystems offers home mail order service. Please ask the claims handler assigned to your workers' compensation claim about whether this option is right for you.



For more topics related to care of your workplace injury, see the Patient Central webpage at healthsystems.com/patient-central-educational-series .