

# ADVERSE DRUG REACTION (ADR)

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

### WHAT IS AN ADVERSE DRUG REACTION (ADR)?

An adverse drug reaction (ADR) is defined as any noxious or unintended response(s) to a drug that is administered in normal doses used in humans by the proper route for the purpose of prophylaxis, diagnosis or treatment.

### WHY DOES ADVERSE DRUG REACTION OCCUR?

There are several factors which may affect how your body reacts towards certain drugs:

- Age
- Gender
- Body weight
- Medical conditions
- Organ functions
- Genetic (most influential factor)

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO?

- Stop taking the medicine that you suspect to cause the reactions (including any health supplement and complementary medicines).
- See your pharmacist or doctor. Bring along the medicines for ADR verification and reporting.
- Take note on the onset of the reactions and the date of starting and stopping the suspected medicine

### WHY DO YOU HAVE TO REPORT?

- To assess the safety of the medicine especially newly introduced medicine, health supplement and complementary medicine which has limited safety data.
- Some adverse drug reactions occur after prolonged treatment.
- Early detection may prevent serious reactions
- Your report may contribute to the development of our drug safety data.
- To create awareness among healthcare professionals and to prevent more serious incidents in future.

### SAFETY TIPS

- Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to any medicine.
- Read the label carefully and pay special attention to the warnings
- Ask your pharmacist or doctor for further information about medicines including health supplement and complementary medicine.
- Take your medicine as instructed.
- Throw away old and expired medicines.
- Neither share or offer your medicine with anyone else.
- Ensure the drug is labeled properly even it is not stored in its original container.
- If you suspecting of developing an ADR due to certain drug you take, stop taking the medicine. and go to the hospital immediately for the treatment.



ADR can occur in a mild form (rashes) or severe form; it can be serious which cause absence from productive activity, admission to hospital and prolongation of hospitalization, birth defects, danger to life and even death.