



## Medication Tips and Tricks



**Medication adherence and reconciliation are two extremely important components of almost all of our quality programs. Annually, medication errors in outpatient medicine cost approximately \$4.2 billion. Below are some tips and tricks that help with both quality measures and patient safety.**



**Notify the pharmacy when/if a medication is discontinued**

*\*Discontinuing a medication in Allscripts does not send a notice to the pharmacy\**



**In the event of a medication dose change, notify pharmacy and d/c previous dose**



**For patients that would benefit from pill packs, some pharmacies offer that service for free**



**Consider using patient's mail order pharmacy as it is often a cheaper option**



**Write the prescription as it is intended to be taken**

*Ex: Patient is prescribed a 30 day prescription, but told to cut it in half, so prescription would last 60 days instead of 30.*



**Reconcile medications to ensure medication list is up to date**



**Consider patient's lifestyle and other medications when prescribing, to improve adherence**

*Ex: A patient who works may have a hard time taking meds 3 times a day. If twice daily is available, may be a better option*



**Discuss the cost of the medication with the patient**

*\*Recommend Good Rx for bargain shopping. Utilize your case manager if medication is unaffordable\**