

Results from Be Medicinewise Week 2019 YouGov Galaxy survey

These are the results from a YouGov Galaxy poll of 1037 adults conducted in July 2019 for NPS MedicineWise, with 527 respondents regularly taking 2 or more medicines.

Recording medicines

Of the people surveyed who regularly take 2 or more medicines (527 respondents):

- Only **31%** actually keep a list of ALL of their prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines
- **26%** only keep a list of their prescription medicines
- 3% keep a list of some of their prescription, over-the-counter and complementary medicines
- **40%** don't keep a list of any of the medicines they are taking.

People who do keep a list of their medicines record a lot of important information but still miss some important points, particularly around active ingredients:

- Of the people who regularly take two or more medicines and do keep a list of some or all of their medicines (316 respondents), only one in five (22%) said they record the active ingredient of the medicine. 17% said they record the date the medicine was started.
- Of these people, **48%** record the brand name, **63%** record information on the dose and how and when to take the medicine, **52%** record the reason for taking the medicine.

Asking questions about medicine

When reflecting on the last time they discussed a newly prescribed medicine with a doctor or pharmacist, people asked a lot of important questions, but still missed some important points. This question was asked of all survey respondents (1037 people).

- Only **16%** discussed what the active ingredient of the medicine is.
- **50%** discussed how much medicine they need to take each time
- **56%** discussed when to take the medicine
- **48%** discussed how long to take the medicine
- **54%** asked about possible side effects
- **43%** asked if it was safe to take with other medicines they take
- 30% asked if there was a cheaper brand of the medicine available
- 26% of people asked about the cost.

Non-English speaking backgrounds

Around **10%** of Australians have household or family members that have trouble getting information about their medicines because English is not their first language.

Media commentary

Commentary on these findings is available in our Be Medicinewise Week 2019 media releases which will be published as and when available at www.nps.org.au/media.

Spokespeople including GPs and pharmacists are available for comment. Please email media@nps.org.au or phone 0419 618 365 to arrange media interviews.