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A Safety Message to Our Patients

At Baker Foot Solutions (BFS), safety is a team effort. You, as a patient can play a vital role in making your care safe by becoming an active, involved and informed member of your health care team. Here are several ways you can help:

1. Participate in all decisions about your treatment. You and your doctor should agree on exactly what will be done during each step of our care. It's important to know who will be taking care of you, how long the treatment will last, and how you should feel.
2. If you are unsure about the nature of the illness, ask for a second opinion. The more information you have the more confident you will be in the decisions made. Before you leave the clinic ask about follow-up care and make sure you understand all the instructions.
3. Ask if you have questions or concerns. If you don't understand, please ask us again.
4. Pay attention to the care you are receiving. Make sure you're getting the right treatments and medications. Tell your doctor if something doesn't seem quite right.
 - a. You can expect your caregivers to have clean hands. Ask if you are unsure.
 - b. Expect your caregivers to introduce themselves.
 - c. Make sure your caregiver confirms your identity, before he/she administers treatment
5. Call for help if needed before getting out of the Podiatry Chair
6. Request interpreter services for our non-English speaking patients. We can also provide access to effective communication for the hearing impaired patient's, including sign language interpreters, please let us know of these requirements before your appointment if possible.
7. Educate yourself about your diagnosis, the medical tests you are undergoing and your treatment plan.
 - a. Write down important facts your physician tells you, so that you can look for additional information later.
 - b. Read all medical forms and make sure you understand them before signing. If you do not understand them ask your physician or nurse to explain them.

8. If you need to ask a trusted family member or friend to be your advocate.
 - a. Your advocate can ask questions you may not think of while undergoing care.
 - b. Your advocate can help remember answers to questions you may have asked, and speak up for you when you cannot
 - c. Make sure this person understands your preferences for care.
9. Know what medications you take and why you take the. Keep a list of all medications that you take (prescribed and non-prescribed medications, herbal supplements, home remedies and medical foods) and medications that you cannot take due to allergic reactions, and share those with your caregivers and any changes at future visits
 - a. Tell you provider how you actually take your medications if this is different from the originally prescribed directions
 - b. Learn the names of the medication products prescribed and give to you as well as their dosage strength and schedules
10. When prescribed a new medication, ask if you should avoid certain foods, beverages, other medications, or activities while you are taking the medication.
11. Ask your health care provider for any written educational material on your diagnosis.
12. Be alert to unexpected changes, such as receiving a prescription medication that seems to have a different strength or appearance from your original prescription.
13. Ask a friend or relative to help you with your medications if you are too ill or keeping track of your medications is overwhelming.
14. Speak to your pharmacist if you have questions about your medications or application of your medications.