What else must be taken into account when it comes to medication?

» Only take medication that was prescribed by a doctor or if you have been advised to do so at the pharmacy.

» The pharmacy team will be happy to answer any questions about medication and explain how to use it.

» Each industrially produced medicine comes with a package information leaflet that contains information about its use. If the leaflet mentions, for example, a side-effect, this does not mean that you will definitely suffer from this side-effect. Your pharmacy team will be happy to talk to you about the package information leaflet.

» Most of the medicines manufactured in Germany are industrially produced. In special cases, the pharmacy produces medicine for individual patients.

» Store medication in such a way that it cannot be accidentally consumed by children.

» Each pharmaceutical package has a date printed on it; the medication can be used until that date. If that date has expired, dispose of the medication with the household waste. Medication must not be disposed of in a toilet or sink. This also applies to liquid medicines such as cough syrup.
Where do you get medication? 

Apart from a small number of exceptions, in Germany medication is dispensed by pharmacies; you cannot get it in other shops or from a doctor’s surgery. “Drug” is another word for “medication” and they both mean the same thing.

A pharmacy can be identified from the outside by the red letter A. A pharmacy is managed by a pharmacist. 

Pharmacies offer a nationwide out-of-hours and emergency service. However, not every pharmacy is open around the clock. At night, and on Sundays, you can find the nearest open pharmacy at www.aponet.de.

What do the terms "prescription-only" and "pharmacy-only" mean? 

There are several types of medication.

You can only get prescription-only medication if you have a prescription from a doctor. Such medication is “prescribed” by a doctor. The doctor fills in a prescription for such medication. Paper prescriptions come in different colours, such as pink.

If you take your prescription to a pharmacy, you will get the medication that was prescribed by the doctor. Prescription-only medication includes medication for high blood pressure and all antibiotics for bacterial infections.

If the pharmacy does not have a medication prescribed by a doctor in stock, the pharmacy can generally obtain the medication for you within a few hours.

Non-prescription medications are available from the pharmacy without a prescription, which means you do not have to see a doctor first. Non-prescription medications include cold remedies and many pain medicines.

Where do you get medication from? 

Refugees from Ukraine:

As a rule, medication prescribed by a doctor will be free of charge for you.

Non-prescription medication can be purchased at the pharmacy.

Medication for your children is usually provided free of charge if you have visited a doctor with your child and have been given a prescription.