



INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Tablet Splitting at Kaiser Permanente

Your Kaiser Permanente physician has approved that you split your prescription tablets. You will receive a tablet splitter with your prescription. This leaflet provides instructions on how to accurately split your tablets, do's and don'ts, and what to do if you have questions. When you split tablets, the dose of medicine you take will be the dose prescribed, but you will simply divide a higher dose tablet in half using the tablet splitter provided.

Why Split Tablets?

A Kaiser Permanente physician may request that you split your tablets for a number of reasons: your physician may want you to start out on a lower dose and build up to a higher dose; or the desired strength of a medication may not be available.

In addition, drug manufacturers sometimes charge a similar price for all strengths of a medication. When this is the case, splitting the higher-dose tablet provides an opportunity to help keep quality health care affordable while still giving you the same dose of the drug that your doctor thinks is right for you.

When is it OK to Split Tablets?

Tablet splitting can be appropriate when a tablet splits easily and minor variations in daily dosage are not clinically important.



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Pharmacy Services

When is it NOT OK to Split Tablets? Some drugs should not be split.

These include any drug in capsule form, tablets with special coatings, drugs with precise dosing requirements, and controlled-release drugs. To make certain that your drugs don't fall into these categories, ask your pharmacist for help.

If you decide to split any other tablets, speak with your physician or pharmacist first.

How to Split Tablets Appropriately

- Please be sure to read the label on your new prescription before taking your medication, and follow the directions carefully.
- Kaiser Permanente is providing you with a tablet splitter to make it easier for you to divide your tablets.
- Simply place the tablet centered into the bottom of the "V" of the tablet splitter (as shown in the diagram) and close the lid.
- If you have any questions about or problems using your tablet splitter, please ask your pharmacist for assistance.

Caution:

The cutting blade is a razor that is protected by a plastic shield. Do not remove the plastic shield. Please be careful when using your tablet splitter.

Please speak with your pharmacist if:

- You have any questions about your medications,
- You think you are unable to split your tablets, or
- You feel uncomfortable with splitting your tablets.

Our pharmacists are here to help you get the most benefit from your medicines. Please speak with your pharmacist if you have any questions about this change.

