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## Medical Advice

Support group leaders do not give medical advice.

In their role with the National MS Society, group leaders do not offer medical advice even if they are healthcare professionals by trade. Group leaders and members may share information on personal experiences, treatments, etc., but refrain from giving personal interpretations, giving advice, sharing medication, or offering recommendations.

In order to help ensure that advice is not given by group members, group leaders share group guidelines at all meetings, monitor discussions and lead the group process.

## Medicine Sharing

Support groups do not engage in sharing or swapping medicines of any kind.

For liability reasons, National MS Society staff and volunteers cannot get involved in any swapping or sharing medicines among group members. Many prescription medicines are controlled substances and FDA regulations do not permit sharing medicines among patients because the safety and efficacy of shared medications cannot be ensured. Therefore, group leaders must not permit the practice or communication of shared medications to happen during any Society group meetings.

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