

PATIENT INFORMATION

SLEEP HYGIENE MEASURES

These behavioral measures have been design to help you sleep without the use of medication. You doctor may ask you to try these suggestions in order to improve the quality and duration of your sleep.

1. Try to maintain a regular sleep/wake schedule. It is particularly important to get up at about the same time every day.
2. Avoid afternoon or evening napping if you have difficulty getting to sleep at night.
3. Allow yourself enough time in bed for adequate sleep duration (e.g. 11:00 PM to 7:00 AM). Don't spend excessive time in bed hoping to get more sleep. Avoid forcing sleep. If you are unable to sleep for more than 15 minutes in bed, leave the room and read quietly in the other room until you feel the urge to sleep and then return to your bed.
4. Avoid alcohol and caffeine in the evening. Avoid smoking, especially in the evening.
5. Reserve the bed for sleep and sex. Don't do homework, watch television, or pay bills in bed.
6. Avoid stressful activities at bedtime. Develop a relaxing and enjoyable routine prior to retiring to bed. (e.g., reading, television).
7. Minimize annoying noise, light, or temperature extremes.
8. Consider a light snack before bedtime. Avoid heavy meals too close to bedtime, since this may interfere with sleep.
9. Regular exercise in the late afternoon may deepen sleep. Vigorous exercise within 3-4 hours of bedtime may interfere with sleep.
10. Don't try harder and harder to fall asleep. If you are unable to sleep, do something else instead.
11. Minimize noise, light and excessive temperatures during sleep periods. Move the alarm clock away from the bed if it is a source of distraction.