

Medications on Pesach

What should one do if their medicine is not listed on the Kosher L'Pesach list?

If someone has a potentially life-threatening condition e.g. hypertension, diabetes, infection, asthma, stroke risk, cancer, psychiatric condition, etc. the Poskim maintain that one must take all their regular medication, whether its a pill, liquid or chewable.

As far as owning the medicine, if it is *nifsal m'achilas adam* (unfit for human consumption) and it is just a mixture, there is no issue of *bal yerae*. If it is a syrup or chewable tablet, one should consult a Rav as to the best way to minimize the problem of owning Chometz on Pesach.

All prescription medication in the pill form may be taken as usual even for a *choleh she'ein bo sakana*. [i.e. One who is bedridden, in debilitating pain, young children with any type of illness or discomfort, or other such illnesses that are not life threatening.]

For liquid and chewable medication, one should obtain an alternative that's approved for Pesach. If there is merely an issue of *kitniyos*, liquids and chewables are also permitted.

It is important not to discontinue taking any prescription medications including liquid or chewable, without consulting your doctor and Rav.

Medications for a mere *meichush* – slight discomfort – or vitamins and prenatals taken by a healthy person, should be from the Kosher L'Pesach list. Even though Chometz in the

pill form is inedible, which is usually permissible; if it is intended for consumption it regains its importance and is forbidden "*achshevei*". While there is a debate whether this applies to medicines as well, it is best to avoid this issue by finding an alternative from the Kosher L'Pesach

list. If the only issue is *kitniyos*, one can be lenient if it is *battel b'rov*.