How to Read Medicine Labels

There are 2 types of medicine. The first type is prescribed by your doctor. The second type is over-the-counter (OTC). This means you do not need a prescription from your doctor.

Both types of medicine come with instructions on the label. It is important to read these instructions. Not following them may affect your health.

Below and on the back of this page are sample labels for both prescription and OTC medicines. They will help you know what to look for the next time you pick up your medicine.

Prescription Medicine Label

Number the pharmacy uses to identify your prescription. This is often called the prescription number

Name of person who was prescribed the medicine

Directions on how much medicine to take and when to take it

Name and strength of medicine

Number of tablets in this prescription

Local Pharmacy
123 MAIN STREET
ANYTOWN, USA 11111

800-555-5555

DR C. JONES

DATE 06/23/11

JANE SMITH
456 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, US 11111

TAKE TWO TABLETS BY MOUTH TWICE DAILY

METFORMIN 500 MG TABLETS

QTY 120

4 REFILLS BEFORE 06/23/14

USE BEFORE 06/23/14

Rx# 0060023-08291

Pharmacy name and address

Pharmacy phone number

Date prescription was filled

If you read a label and still have questions, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for help.
Review the sample label for over-the-counter (OTC) medicines below. This will help you know what to look for the next time you pick up your OTC medicine.

**Over-the-Counter (OTC) Medicine Label**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Active ingredient (in each tablet)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Uses**: temporarily relieves these symptoms due to hay fever or other upper respiratory allergies:

- sneezing
- runny nose
- itchy, watery eyes
- itchy throat

**Warnings**

- Ask a doctor before use if you have glaucoma
- a breathing problem such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis
- trouble urinating due to an enlarged prostate gland

**Ask a doctor or pharmacist before use if you are**

- taking tranquilizers or sedatives

**When using this product**

- You may get drowsy
- Avoid alcoholic drinks
- Alcohol, sedatives, and tranquilizers may increase drowsiness
- Be careful when driving a motor vehicle or operating machinery
- Excitability may occur, especially in children

If pregnant or breastfeeding, ask a health professional before use.

Keep out of reach of children. In case of overdose, get medical help or contact a Poison Control Center right away.

**Directions**

- Adults and children 12 years and over:
  - Take 2 tablets every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 12 tablets in 24 hours.
- Children 6 years to under 12 years:
  - Take 1 tablet every 4 to 6 hours; not more than 5 tablets in 24 hours.
- Children under 6 years:
  - Ask a doctor

**Other information**

- Store at 20-25°C (68-77°F)
- Protect from excessive moisture

**Inactive ingredients**

- D&C yellow no. 10, lactose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch

If you read a label and still have questions, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for help.

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This material was developed by GlaxoSmithKline.

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