How to Read Drug Labels

Medicines, or drugs, come as either prescription or over the counter (OTC). Prescription drugs are used under a doctor’s care. OTC drugs can be bought and used without a doctor’s prescription, and you buy them at a drugstore or grocery store. When using any kind of drug, it’s really important to read the drug label for instructions. Not following the instructions can hurt your health. Read the label each time you use a new bottle of a drug, just in case there have been changes to it since the last time you used it. See the drug label below and on the next page to know what to look for. If you read the label and still have questions, call your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist for help.

Prescription Drug Label

- **Pharmacy name and address**
- **Number used by the drugstore to identify this drug for your refills**
- **Person who gets this drug**
- **Instructions about how often and when to take this drug**
- **Name of drug and strength of drug**
- **Number of refills before certain date**
- **Local Pharmacy**
  - 123 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, USA 11111
  - NO 0060023-08291
  - JANE SMITH
  - 456 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, US 11111
  - TAKE ONE CAPSULE BY MOUTH THREE TIMES DAILY FOR 10 DAYS UNTIL ALL TAKEN
  - AMOXICILLIN 500MG CAPSULES
  - QTY MRG
  - NO REFILLS - DR. AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED
  - USE BEFORE 06/23/12
  - SLF/SLF
  - Date 06/23/09
  - Dr. C. Jones
  - Phone number 800-555-5555

- **Don’t use this drug past this date**
Over-the-Counter (OTC) Drug Label

**Drug Facts**

**Active ingredient (in each tablet):** Chlorpheniramine maleate 2 mg

**Purpose:** Antihistamine

**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 6 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

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