Understanding Prescription Medicine



What is a prescription medicine?

In the U.S., these are medicines prescribed by certain licensed health care providers:

- Doctors
- Nurse Practitioners
- Physician Assistants
- Dentists

Can I get the prescription label in my language?

- Ask your pharmacist if they can print the label and medicine information sheet in your language.
- Ask for a larger print size if needed.

What are the stickers on the prescription bottle?

They give you more information such as:

- Directions for taking the medicine
- Warnings about side effects
- Storage of the medicine
- Possible interactions

What information is on the prescription medicine label?

- Your name and address
- Your doctor's name
- The date the prescription was filled
- Your prescription number
- The name and strength of the medicine
- Instructions for taking the medicine
- The form of the medicine (syrup, tablet, cream)
- The name, address, and phone number of the pharmacy
- How many times you can refill the prescription

What should I do with expired medicine?

Call the Poison Control Center for specific instructions.

New York City Poison Control Center



The New York City Poison Control Center is here to help you with medicine safety.

Call us anytime at 1-800-222-1222 or 212-POISONS (212-764-7667)

Visit our website at nyc.gov/health

- Your Poison Control Center is available 24 hours a day,
 7 days a week.
- Pharmacists and nurses certified in poison information are there to give advice.
- All calls are free and confidential.
- Translation services are provided.
- Ask for free brochures, telephone stickers and magnets.



Using your Smartphone download a free QR Reader application to receive more information.







