
Handling of Prescriptions

EXPERIMENT 1: HANDLING OF PRESCRIPTION

Aim

To identify the different elements of a prescription and the right steps to be used to handle and process it in the right manner.

Theory

Significance in Handling of Prescription

Pharmacists play a significant role in the proper handling of prescriptions and the safe, effective dispensing of medication, which involves steps such as reception, reading, checking, and compounding. Prescription management is of utmost importance to guarantee an effective and safe dispensing of drugs. It involves several processes, including receiving, reading, checking, material collection, compounding, labeling, and packaging. This will enhance the therapeutic outcome and also win the trust of the patients. It helps the pharmacist avoid medication errors and, consequently, any harm to the patient.

The steps involved in handling prescriptions are:

1. Receiving prescription
2. Reading and checking
3. Weighing and gathering ingredients
4. Compounding, labelling and packaging
5. Patient counseling

1. Receiving Prescription

The prescription must be given to the patient, thus the pharmacist must review it personally to detect any mistakes or concerns. They are expected to maintain a non-judgmental facial expression to avoid creating confusion or anxiety in the patient.

2. Reading and checking

The pharmacist should make sure that the prescription is full and clear. This include ensuring that it is written in the correct format and properly signed by the prescriber. There should always be a check-up behind the counter on the prescription. If there is any doubt, they ought to be explained to the prescriber or another pharmacist without causing the patient panic. Also, the pharmacist is expected to evaluate potential drug interactions, allergies, and contraindications, and ensure that the dosage is appropriate given patient-specific circumstances such as age and health history.

3. Weighing and Gathering Ingredients

The pharmacist makes all the necessary substances, and weighs them on an analytical balance when ready to make a compounded prescription. The ingredients should be checked at every stage to reduce the possibility of mistakes.

4. Compounding, Labelling and Packaging

The pharmacist makes the drug based on the prescription or on the pharmacopoeial standards. Labeling should include the patient's name, the drug name and strength, dosage instructions for where the drug is to

be administered, and any special precautions or storage instructions. The final product will be placed in a suitable container to protect it from contamination and exposure to light or moisture.

5. Patient Counseling

The pharmacy advises the patients on how to take their medicine, how they can have side effects, and how to store the medicine. They also maintain clear documentation of the prescription and dispensed drug for later reference, ensuring continuity of care and patient safety. This will aid in improving medication adherence, enhancing patient education, and promoting the safe and effective use of medicines.

Parts of a Prescription

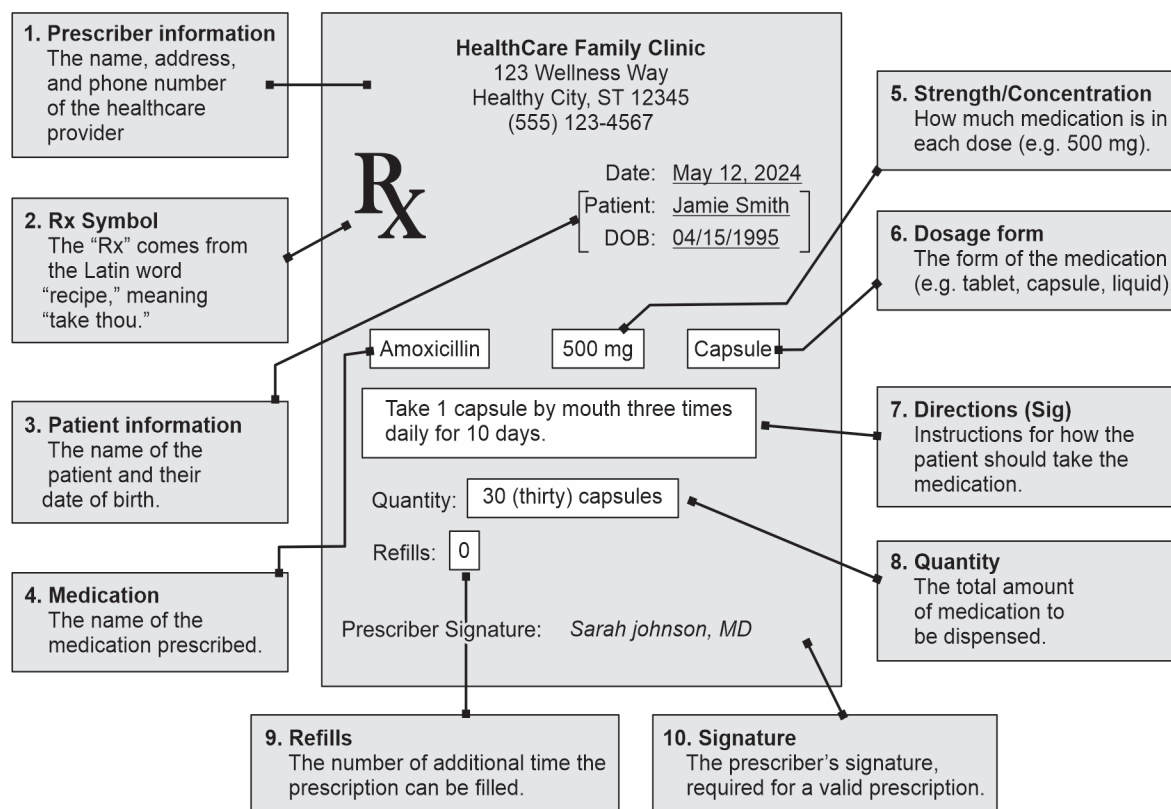
A prescription is a written statement issued by a doctor or licensed medical practitioner that specifies a particular drug or treatment. The word is based on the Latin “praescriptus”, which translates to “before writing”, and the English word “prescription” was derived from it. A prescription consists of a few fundamental items that ensure proper medication dispensing, medication use, and patient safety. The parts include:

1. Physician's Information

Patients must also be provided with the contact information of their physician to ensure that they can reach them in case of an emergency. Thus, the doctor's name, address, phone number, email address, and prescription number should be included on a prescription.

2. Date

Prescription date is significant in tracking prescription and dispensing schedules, especially of controlled substances, to assist in curbing abuse. It allows the pharmacist to check the prescription date and the medication's presentation date for dispensing.



Parts of a prescription

3. Patient Information

The name of the patient, his age, gender, and address are provided in this section. Such information will matter in making the correct identification and in ensuring the right dosage is prescribed, particularly for children. For pediatric patients, age, weight, and gender are required to determine the correct dose.

4. Superscription

It is indicated by the abbreviation $\mathcal{R}_x$ which is a Latin term, recipe, meaning “take thou”. Conventionally associated with the deity of illness (the god of healing), it is given at the start of a prescription.

5. Inscription

This is the main section of the prescription, and it entails the makeup of the drug, its concentration, as well as the dosage necessary. It can be composed of official and non- official preparations.

6. Subscription

It provides instructions to the pharmacist on the preparation and dispensing of the drug, alongwith the dosage units and the amount to dispense.

7. Signatura

It is written on the label and contains the instructions of the dose, frequency, route of administration, and any special instructions. It includes the prescriber’s instructions to the patient on how and when to take the medication, usually in Latin short-forms or symbols.

8. Signature

A signature section of the prescription is the place where the signature of a prescriber is present, and it means that a licensed healthcare professional signed the prescription. It can be used to establish that the prescriber has reviewed the patient’s medical history.

9. Registration Number and Seal

The prescription should include the prescriber’s details such as signature, address, and registration number to verify its authenticity and help prevent misuse.

10. Instructions for Use

In this section, one is given guides on how to take the medication, the number of doses per day, and the treatment period. These are guidelines the pharmacist should ensure the patient adheres to always.

11. Refills

This indicates the possibility of a prescription to be refilled and the number of refills allowed. It helps ensure that the drug is taken when needed and that the patient does not run out.

Observation

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Report

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Viva Voce

1. What are the parts of a prescription?

Ans. The parts of a prescription are the physician information, date, patient information, superscription, inscription, subscription, signature, registration number and seal, instructions for use, and seal and refills.

2. R_x is involved in which part of the prescription?

Ans. Superscription.

3. The drug names are included in which part of the prescription?

Ans. Inscription.

4. What are the details included under the registration number and use?

Ans. Registration number and address of the physician.

5. The word prescription has been derived from.....?

Ans. Latin word 'praescriptus'.