Reading Medication Labels

Calhoun Community College
Why are drug labels so important?

- **Generic Name** – name given by *manufacturer who developed* the medication. Legally, all medication labels must identify the generic name. It appears under trade name in smaller letters, may be in ( )
  - Example: VISTARIL (hydroxyzine) ~ anti-anxiety
    APRESOLINE (hydralazine) ~ treat HTN
- **Brand Name** (trade) – manufacture’s name for the drug (usually the most prominent name on the label and most of the time ALL CAPITALIZED & **BOLD PRINT**)

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**Generic Name**

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473 mL ORAL SUSPENSION
ALDOMET®
(METHYLDOPA, MSD)
250 mg per 5 mL
SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING
CAUTION: Federal (USA) law prohibits dispensing without prescription.
MERCK SHARP & DOHME
DIVISION OF MERCK & CO., INC.
WEST POINT, PA 18486, USA
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**Brand/Trade Name**

Registration Symbol—given after trade mark formally registered
Drug labels continued...

- **Dosage Strength** – weight or amount of drug provided in a specific unit of measurement (some may have 2 different strengths provided)
  - EXAMPLE: 100 mg per tablet
    - 40 mg per 5 mL
    - Combination 5 mg/500 mg

- **Form** – identifies the structure and composition of the drug (tablet, liquid, solution, suppository, patch, or powder)
  - Other forms:
    - CR (controlled release) & SR (sustained release)
    - LA (long acting) & XL (long acting)
    - DS (double strength)

(Don’t confuse these initials with USP or NF initials)
Drug labels continued...

- **Total Volume** – refers to full quantity obtained in package, bottle or vial.
- **Administration Route** – refers to the site of the body or method of drug delivery into the client (Oral, IM, IV, Topical)
- **Directions for Mixing or Reconstituting** – refers to drugs that are dispensed in powder form which must be reconstituted for use
- **Label Alerts** – Warning such as: “keep in dry place” “refrigerate after opening” “protect from light”
- **Expiration Date** – may lose potency or become toxic
KALETRA™
(lopinavir/ritonavir) oral solution

Each mL contains:
lopinavir ............................................. 80 mg
ritonavir ............................................... 20 mg

Rx only 02-8413-2/R3

ALERT
Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with KALETRA

Note to Pharmacist: Do not cover ALERT box with pharmacy label.

Exp. 7/2008

Total volume
Route of administration
Combination medications
Alert (Warning)
Expiration date
KEFLEX®
CEPHALEXIN
CAPSULES, USP
250 mg

CAUTION—Federal (U.S.A.) law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Store at Controlled Room Temperature 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C)
Keep Tightly Closed

Usual Adult Dose—One PULVULE every 6 hours. For more severe infections, dose may be increased, not to exceed 4 g a day. See literature.
Each PULVULE contains Cephalexin Monohydrate equivalent to 250 mg Cephalexin. Dispense in a tight container.
On the following labels, complete the following information:

- Generic name:
- Trade name:
- Dosage strength:
- Total Volume:
- Warning or precautions:
- How will you store this medication?
- Form of medication?
- Any special instructions?

(Answers will be in the note section of each slide)
Lasix®
(furosemide)
ORAL SOLUTION
10 mg/mL
60 mL
with calibrated safety dropper

Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

HOECHST-ROUSSEL Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Somerville, N.J. 08876
MORPHINE SULFATE
10 mg per 5 ml
Oral Solution
(World: May be habit forming)
(SUGAR AND ALCOHOL FREE)
Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.
See Package Insert
Roxane Laboratories, Inc.
Columbus, Ohio 43216
ADALAT® CC
(nifedipine)
Extended Release Tablets
30 mg
90 Tablets

Caution: Federal (USA) law prohibits dispensing without prescription.
Inderal® LA
(propranolol hydrochloride)
LONG ACTING CAPSULES
80 mg

NOTE: Dispense in child-resistant packaging.
This package not for household use.

CAUTION: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Ayerst®
AYERST LABORATORIES INC.
New York, NY 10017
100 tablets
Tylenol®
with codeine
ACETAMINOPHEN AND CODEINE PHOSPHATE
TABLETS No. 2
Each tablet contains:
- codeine phosphate 15 mg
- acetaminophen 300 mg
Warning—May be habit forming.
Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

100 tablets
LORTAB® 5 mg
HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE AND ACETAMINOPHEN TABLETS
Each scored white with blue specks tablet contains:
- Hydrocodone Bitartrate* 5 mg
- Acetaminophen 500 mg
*WARNING: May be habit forming.
CAUTION: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.
Each mL contains atropine sulfate 400 mcg (0.4 mg), sodium chloride 9 mg and benzyl alcohol 0.015 mL in Water for Injection. pH 3.0-6.5; sulfuric acid added, if needed, for pH adjustment.

ATROPINE SULFATE INJECTION, USP

400 mcg/mL
(0.4 mg/mL)

FOR SC, IM OR IV USE

USUAL DOSE: See package insert.
Store at controlled room temperature 15°-30°C (59°-86°F).
Caution: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Product Code
2210-43

B-32210
AMOXIL®
AMOXCILLIN
FOR ORAL SUSPENSION

125mg/5mL
NDC 0029-6008-23

Directions for mixing: Tap bottle until all powder flows freely. Add approximately 1/3 total amount of water for reconstitution (total=78 mL); shake vigorously to wet powder. Add remaining water; again shake vigorously. Each 5 mL (1 teaspoonful) will contain amoxicillin trihydrate equivalent to 125 mg amoxicillin.

Usual Adult Dosage: 250 to 500 mg every 8 hours.
Usual Child Dosage: 20 to 40 mg/kg/day in divided doses every 8 hours, depending on age, weight and infection severity. See accompanying prescribing information.

100mL (when reconstituted)

Keep tightly closed. Shake well before using. Refrigeration preferable but not required. Discard suspension after 14 days.

SmithKline Beecham

9405793-F
Erythromycin
Ethylsuccinate
Oral Suspension, USP

200 mg/5 mL

Each 5 mL (one teaspoonful) contains: Erythromycin Ethylsuccinate equivalent to 200 mg Erythromycin.

USUAL DOSAGE:
See package circular.
CAUTION: Federal law prohibits dispensing without prescription.

Control No.

SHAKE WELL BEFORE USING

STORAGE: Store in refrigerator to preserve taste until dispensed.
Refrigeration by patient is not required if used within 14 days.

This package not for household dispensing.

Protect from light.
Dispense in amber bottles.

Exp. Date 12/25/12

ONE PINT (473 mL)

Manufactured by
BARRE-NATIONAL INC.
Baltimore, MD 21207

for
LEDERLE LABORATORIES
DIVISION
American Cyanamid Company,
Pearl River, NY 10965

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