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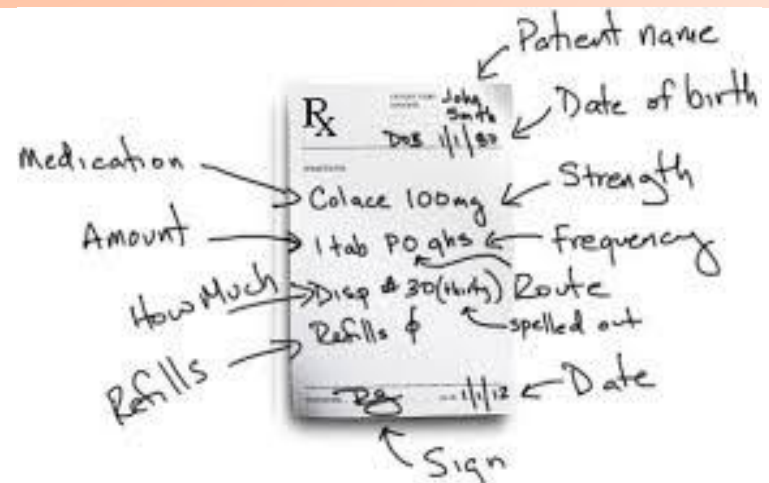
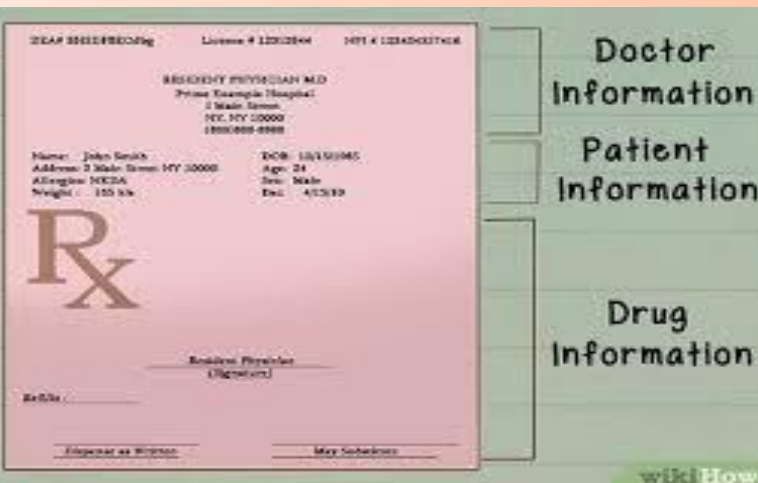
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PRESCRIPTION

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Introduction

- Prescription is an order written by a registered medical practitioner (RMP) such as physician, dentist, veterinarian etc. to a pharmacist to compound and dispense a specific medication for the patient.

OR

- Prescription is a written order for medication, issued by physician or RMP
- Prescription is relationship between physician and pharmacist.

Physician (RMP) → **Pharmacist** → **Patients**

Prescription is a media through which treatment is provided for a patient by the skill and services of both the physician and the pharmacist.

Prescriptions are generally written in English language but Latin words or abbreviations are frequently used in order to save time. So it becomes necessary for a pharmacist to become familiar with the common Latin terms and abbreviations use by the prescriber on the prescriptions.

Parts of a Prescription

Prescriptions are generally written on a typical format which consists of the following parts:

- 1. Prescriber's Information**
- 2. Date**
- 3. Name, Age, Sex and Address of The Patient)**
- 4. Superscription (symbol R_x)**
- 5. Inscription (Medication prescribed)**
- 6. Subscription (Direction to Pharmacist/Dispenser)**
- 7. Signatura or Transcription (Direction for Patient)**
- 8. Renewal instructions**
- 9. Prescriber's signature and registration number**

Parts of a Prescription

1. Prescriber's Information

- Information about physician is essential so that the patient could be contact in emergency.
- Following information is mentioned on the prescription
 - ✓ Doctor's or office name.
 - ✓ Address with phone number and e-mail.
 - ✓ Prescription number, (required when calling the pharmacy for a refill)

2. Date

- It helps a pharmacist to find out the date of prescribing.
- It also helps to know when the medicines were last dispensed if the prescription is brought for redispens.
- In case of narcotic or habit forming drug, the date prevents the misuse of the drug by the patient.

Parts of a Prescription

3. Name, Age, Sex and Address of the Patient

- Name and address of the patient for identification purpose.
- Age and sex of the patient is required for child patient to check the prescribed dose.

4. Superscription (symbol ℞)

- It is represented by ℞ (Latin term) “recipe” which means “take thou” or “you take”.
- In olden days, the symbol was considered to be originated from the sign of Jupiter.
- Jupiter is the Greek God of healing.
- This symbol was use for requesting God for the quick recovery of the patient.

Parts of a Prescription

5. Inscription (Medication prescribed)

- It is the main part of the prescription.
- It contains the names and quantities of the prescribed medicaments.
- The medicament may be official preparation or non-official preparation.
 - a) **Official preparation (i.e. from pharmacopoeia)** – Only name of the preparation is written
E.g. Piperazine Citrate Elixir IP
 - b) **Non-official preparation**– Quantity of each ingredient will be given and type of preparation will also be given.

6. Subscription (Direction to Pharmacist)

- In this part the prescriber gives direction to the pharmacist-
 - a) **Regarding the dosage form to be prepared.**
 - b) **Number of doses to be dispensed.**

Parts of a Prescription

7. Signatura (Direction for Patient)

- It is usually written as “Sig.”.
- The signatura written in english and use some Latin abbreviations like
t.i.d (thrice a day), b.i.d (twice a day) and o.d (once a day)
- Instructions should be written on the label of container so that the patient can follow them.
- The instructions may include:
 - a) Quantity to be taken (dose of drug)
 - b) Frequency and timing of administration of the preparation (dose interval)
 - c) Route of administration
 - d) Special instruction (if any)

Parts of a Prescription

8. Renewal instructions

- The number of times a prescription is to be repeated is written by the physician.
- It is very important for the case of habit forming drugs to prevent its misuse.

9. Prescriber's signature and registration number

- The prescription must be signed by the prescriber by his / her own hand.
- Registration number should be written in the case of dangerous and habit forming drugs.

Parts of a Prescription

An example of a typical prescription is given as follows:

+ ADITYA HOSPITAL +		
	Moradabad	Date- x/y/z
Name:	Mr. Ram Kumar	Age: 56 years
Address:	C-188, Civil Lines, Moradabad	Sex:- Male
		Weight:- 68 Kg
R (Superscription)		
Inscription	Cod liver oil	50ml
	Simple Syrup	6ml
	Purified Water <u>q.s.</u>	90ml
Fiat <u>emulsio.</u> (Subscription)		
Sig. <u>Cochleare</u> magnum <u>ter</u> in die post <u>cibos</u> <u>sumenda.</u>		
(Signatura)		
Refill: x/y/z	Signature/- Dr. A. Sharma Reg. No. 12343	

Parts of a Prescription

Legal Requirements for a Valid Prescription

1. Prescription should be written in indelible (can not erased) ink (may be handwritten or computer generated)
 2. Prescription must be signed in indelible ink by the practitioner using his own name.
 3. Prescription must be dated by the prescriber.
 4. Prescription should state address of the practitioner.
 5. If issued by a dentist the words “for dental use only”
 6. Prescription always writes legibly.
 7. Prescription always space out words and numbers to avoid confusion.
 8. Prescription always contains complete medication orders.
 9. Avoid abbreviations.
- **Nowadays, electronic prescriptions are use, to minimize medication errors.**
 - **The use of abbreviations in prescription writing is traditional.**
 - **Nowadays, prescriptions are written in English language.**

Useful Latin Terms

Latin term / phrases	Abbreviation	English Translation
Semel in die or omne in die	o.d	Once a day
Bis in die, Bis die	b.i.d. or b.d.	Twice a day
Ter in die, Ter die	t.i.d. or t.d.	Thrice a day
Quartar in die	q.i.d., q.d.	Four times a day
Si opus sit	s. o.s	When required
Emulsio	-	Emulsion
Cochleare	-	Table Spoon
Post Cibos	-	After Lunch
Sumenda	-	To be taken

Handling of Prescription

The following procedures should be adopted by the pharmacist while handling the prescription for compounding and dispensing:

1. Receiving
2. Reading and checking
3. Collecting and weighing the materials
4. Compounding, packaging and labeling

Handling of Prescription

1. Receiving

- The prescription should be received by the pharmacist.
- While receiving a prescription, a pharmacist should not change his/her facial expression.
- It gives an impression that he/she is confused or surprised after seeing the prescription.

2. Reading and checking

- After receiving the prescription it should be screened behind the counter.
- Prescription authenticity should be checked.
- The signature of the prescriber and the date of prescription should be checked.
- The pharmacist should read all the lines and words of the prescription.
- He/she must not guess any word.
- If there is any doubt, the pharmacist should consult with the other pharmacist or the prescriber over telephone.

Handling of Prescription

3. Collecting and weighing the material

- Before compounding a prescription all the materials should be collected from the shelves or drawers.
- All the materials kept in the left hand side of the balance.
- After measuring each material should be kept on the right hand side of the balance.
- After compounding of the prescription materials are replaced back to the shelves / drawers.
- While compounding every container of material should be checked thrice in the following manner:
 - ✓ When collected from the shelves/drawers.
 - ✓ When the materials are measured.
 - ✓ When the containers are replaced back to the shelves/drawers.

Handling of Prescription

4. **Compounding, packaging and labeling**

- Only one prescription should be compounded at a time.
- Compounding should be done on a clean table.
- All equipment required should be cleaned and dried.
- The preparation should be prepared according to the direction of the prescriber or as per methods given in pharmacopoeia or formulary.
- The compounded preparations should be filled in suitable containers.
- Label the container.

Modern methods of Prescribing

- Nowadays, the majority of the drugs are available in the market as readymade formulation manufacturing by different pharmaceutical companies.
- The drugs should be prescribed by its official name and not by its proprietary or trade name.
- There are certain advantages and disadvantages of prescribing the drugs by its proprietary name, which are as under...

Advantages:

1. It's easy to remember proprietary because they are very catchy.
2. It is easy to communicate with the patient.
3. The continuity can be maintained by prescribing the same proprietary name every time.
4. The bioavailability of drugs change with the change of adjutants used in drugs formulation manufacture by different manufactures. So only those proprietary drugs can be prescribed which have a better bioavailability.

Disadvantages:

1. It is cheaper to prescribe the drugs by its official name.
2. It becomes difficult for a pharmacist to dispense the substitute of the drug which is available in the stock.

Modern methods of Prescribing

There are 4 types of prescriptions which are generally received by the retail drug store:-

- Prescription in general practice.
- Private prescription.
- Hospital prescription meant for 'out patients'.
- Hospital prescription meant for 'in patient'.

A typical modern prescription is given below:

+ SIDHARTH NURSINC HOME +		
57, Gomati Apartments, Delhi		
Tel. 29982857, 29982587, 9812058673		
		Date : 10-2-2010
Name : Mrs. Sudha	Age : 50 Yrs	Sex : Female
Address : 12, New Rajinder Nagar, Delhi		
Rx		
Tablet Azithromycin		500 mg
Dispense 3 tablets.		
One tablet to be taken on an empty stomach every day.		
Refill : _____	Sd/-	
Signature of the prescriber		
Regd. No. :		

Care Required in Dispensing Prescription

Following precautions should be taken while dispensing a prescription.

1. Prescription must be carried with the pharmacist while taking the medicine out of the shelves.
2. The dispensing balance should always be checked before weighing any ingredient.
3. All the chemicals should be replaced back in to their original positions in the shelf.
4. Care should be taken to keep the balance clean after each measurement.
5. Liquid preparations for external use the label must display **FOR EXTERNAL USE ONLY** in red ink.
6. Before handing over the medicine to the patient, again the preparation should be checked.