



Drug Safety: Reading Labels and Patient Information

Why Read Labels and Information Sheets?

Your prescription drug comes in a bottle or a box with a label. You also receive written information about the drug from your pharmacy. Both the label and the information sheet tell you important safety information.



How to Read a Drug Label

Pharmacy labels have a lot of information. Here are the things to look for on a drug label. Each pharmacy may put the information in a different place. To learn more, visit our free website, www.ConsumerReportsHealth.org/BestBuyDrugs.

Pharmacy name and address — CENTRAL PHARMACY
45 Main St, Anytown, US 12345

Prescription number — Rx# 231-479-161

Who the prescription is for — SMITH, JANE

Directions for taking the drug — TAKE ONE TABLET ORALLY DAILY OR EVERY SIX TO EIGHT HOURS AS NEEDED FOR SYMPTOMS.

Quantity in the container — 24

Brand name of the drug — FAZACLO

Refills left — NO REFILLS

Generic name of the drug — CLOZAPINE

Dose, or strength, of the drug — TAB 10-500MG

Expiration date of the drug — USE BEFORE 06/24/12

Safety reminders — DO NOT TAKE THIS DRUG IF YOU BECOME PREGNANT; DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WHEN TAKING THIS MEDICATION; MAY CAUSE DROWSINESS OR DIZZINESS

Doctor who wrote the prescription — Dr. Jones, John C

Date the prescription was filled — DATE 06/24/10

Phone number of the pharmacy — (800) 555-5555

CAUTION FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS TRANSFER OF THIS DRUG TO ANY PERSON OTHER THAN THE PATIENT FOR WHOM PRESCRIBED.

Source: consumerreports.org/health/resources/pdf/best-buy-drugs/money-saving-guides/english/ReadingLabels.pdf