ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DRUG FACTS LABEL
And more…

What is the Drug Facts Label?
Modeled after the Nutrition Facts Label, the Drugs Facts Label provides consumers with important information about over-the-counter medicine.

Who Regulates The Drug Facts Label?
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the labeling of all over-the-counter medicines.
- The content and the format make it easy for consumers to compare products.

The Drug Facts Label must be:
- Easy to read
- Easy to understand
- In the same format on every over-the-counter medicine

Another Label –
- Vitamins, minerals, and herbs are labeled with the Dietary Supplement Label.
- They are not considered drugs.

Do prescription drugs have Drug Facts Labels?
Not really, but they do have a “package insert” or a drug information sheet.

Pharmacists can help
- Because prescriptions are filled at a pharmacy, the pharmacist can answer questions about your medicine.
- They are available to answer questions about OTC drugs, too.

Why should I pay attention to the Drug Facts Label?
The Drug Facts Label helps you use OTC medicine correctly and safely.

Important information is on the Drug Facts Label
Following the label is the best way to stay safe and protect your health.
LifeSmarts
Health and Safety Lessons: Drug Facts Label
PowerPoint Discussion Notes

Slide 10
Slide Text: Where is the label located?
Look for the Drug Facts Label on the medicine container or package. You should not have to open the packaging to read the label.

Slide 11
Slide Text: What information does it include?
The Drug Facts Label includes:
- *Active Ingredient(s)/Purpose*
- *Warnings*

Slide 12
Slide Text: The Drug Facts Label also includes:
- *Directions*
- *Other information*
- *Inactive ingredients*
And sometimes an optional section called:
- *Questions? 😊*

Slide 13
Slide Text: A Closer Look
- All of this information is important, yet many people never read the Drug Facts Label.
So, let’s take a look…

Slide 14
Slide Text: Active Ingredients/Purpose
What makes the drug work
What it does

Slide 15
Slide Text: Too much *can* hurt you
- Check the active ingredients in all medicines.
- Don’t use two medicines with the same active ingredient at the same time.

Slide 16
Slide Text: Be cautious
- If the medicine contains more than one active ingredient, read the purpose of each.
- Make sure you need each active ingredient, if you don’t, choose a different drug.

Slide 17
Slide Text: Uses
The symptoms the drug will treat
LifeSmarts
Health and Safety Lessons: Drug Facts Label
PowerPoint Discussion Notes

Slide 18
Slide Text: What is it good for?
- The uses section explains the illness or symptoms the medicine is designed to treat.
- Use only the medicine that treats the symptoms you have.

Slide 19
Slide Text: Warnings
Special concerns regarding use

Slide 20
Slide Text: Watch for side effects
- Medicines often have side effects—unwanted or unexpected effects on the body.
- Read about the reasons the medicine should not be used, when to consult a doctor, and when to stop using it.

Slide 21
Slide Text: Directions
How to use safely

Slide 22
Slide Text: Directions include:
- How much to use
- How to use
- How often to use
  ◦ How many times per day
  ◦ How many hours between doses
- How long to use

Slide 23
Slide Text: Dosage
- The strength of the medicine depends on the amount of active ingredient in each dose.
- Use an accurate measuring tool for liquid medicine.

Slide 24
Slide Text: Other information
How to store the medicine and information about other ingredients as required by the FDA

Slide 25
Slide Text: “Other” may include:
- How to store the medicine
- Information about tamper resistant packaging
- Ingredients that are neither active or inactive, such as sodium
LifeSmarts
Health and Safety Lessons: Drug Facts Label
PowerPoint Discussion Notes

Slide 26
Slide Text: Inactive ingredients
Components of the medicine that do not treat illness

Slide 27
Slide Text: Excipients
- Inactive ingredients make up the pill or liquid that carries the active ingredient(s).
- In pharmaceutical terms they are called excipients.

Slide 28
Slide Text: Questions?
An optional DFL feature

Slide 29
Slide Text: Call the toll free number
- Telephone number to call for information or to comment on the product
- Some OTC medicines include Web addresses

Slide 30
Slide Text: If you are ever unsure about how or when to use medicine, consult your doctor or another health care professional.

Slide 31
Slide Text: Make Medicine Use SAFER
The FDA recommends:
- Speak Up
- Ask Questions
- Find the Facts
- Evaluate Choices
- Read the Label