

LifeSmarts

Health and Safety Lessons: Drug Facts Label

PowerPoint Discussion Notes

Slide 1

Slide Text: **ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DRUG FACTS LABEL**
And more...

Slide 2

Slide Text: 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.

Slide 3

Slide Text: 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.

Slide 4

Slide Text: The Drug Facts Label must be:

- Easy to read
- Easy to understand
- In the same format on every over-the-counter medicine

Slide 5

Slide Text: Another Label –

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

Slide 6

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

Slide 7

Slide Text: 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.

Slide 8

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

Slide 9

Slide Text: Important information is on the Drug Facts Label
Following the label is the best way to stay safe and protect your health.

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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.

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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

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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

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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