



# LifeSmarts

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## OTC Medicine Safety Vocabulary

*This content vocabulary list complements the LifeSmarts OTC Medicine Safety Mentoring Project. See <http://lifesmarts.org/otc/> for more information. LifeSmarts is a program of the National Consumers League, providing confidence and safety in the marketplace since 1899.*

- 1. Active Ingredient(s) (section of the Drug Facts label)** The ingredients in the medicine that make it work
- 2. brand name drug** A drug sold with a commercial name, not generic
- 3. Directions (section of the Drug Facts label)** Indicates the amount or dose of medicine, how often to take it, and how much you can take in one day
- 4. dose** The amount of medicine to take
- 5. dosing device/measuring tool** The syringe, cup, or other receptacle that is packaged with your over-the-counter (OTC) medicine, meant specifically to measure doses of that medicine
- 6. drug** A substance for treatment, or prevention, of disease; intended to affect the structure or a function of the body
- 7. Drug Facts label** Every OTC medicine has a Drug Facts label printed on the package. This label gives you important information about what the medicine does, how to take it safely, and who should not take it
- 8. generic drug** A drug that is the same as a brand name drug in dosage, safety, strength, how it is taken, quality, performance, and intended use
- 9. Inactive Ingredient(s) (section of the Drug Facts label)** Ingredients not intended to treat symptoms, such as color or flavorings
- 10. medicine** A substance for treatment, or prevention, of disease; same as drug
- 11. medicine misuse** Taking a drug for a purpose or in a way that is not intended
- 12. OTC** Over-the-Counter medicine that is bought in a pharmacy, drugstore, or supermarket and obtained without the need for a health professional's prescription
- 13. Other Information (section of the Drug Facts label)** Additional information on the Drug Facts label including how to store the medicine
- 14. overdose** Using more medicine than recommended on the label or prescribed
- 15. pharmacist** A professional whose job it is to prepare and dispense medicine
- 16. pharmacy** A place where prescription and OTC drugs can be purchased

- 17. physician** A doctor, a professional who practices medicine
- 18. Poison Control Centers** Offer free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week through the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222 and online at [www.PoisonHelp.org](http://www.PoisonHelp.org)
- 19. prescription** Medicine that is specially ordered for you by a doctor or other qualified healthcare practitioner, available only from a pharmacist
- 20. Questions (section of the Drug Facts label)** Company phone number to call
- 21. Rx** Prescription medicine
- 22. self-medicate** Choosing to take medicine by yourself
- 23. side effects** Unwanted and/or unexpected effects from a medicine
- 24. strength** How much of the active ingredient is present in each unit (for example, each pill)
- 25. symptoms** Physical or mental conditions that may indicate illness and can be described by the person feeling them
- 26. Uses (section of the Drug Facts label)** The symptoms the medicine treats
- 27. Warnings (section of the Drug Facts label)** Safety information including side effects, the questions you should ask a doctor before taking the medicine, and which medicines to avoid using at the same time