

# AN INTRODUCTION TO PRESCRIPTION



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# Definition



The word “**prescription**” is derived from the Latin term **praescriptus** which made up of two Latin words **prae** a prefix meaning ‘*before*’ and **scribere** meaning ‘*to write*’

- ❖ Prescription is an order written by a physician, dentist or any other medical practitioner to the pharmacist to compound & dispense a specific medication for individual patient.
- ❖ Prescription is accompanied by direction for pharmacist and for patient.



## **Types of Prescription**

### **Pre compounding prescription:**

- Prescription for already prepared drug (by pharmaceutical companies) e.g. Cap. Ciprofloxacin (500 mg) etc.

### **Extemporaneous prescription:**

- The pharmacists prepare the medication according to the drugs and dosages directed by the physician (nowadays not in practice)

# Parts of prescription

## a. Heading:-

- Date
- Personal data of patient

## b. Body

- Superscription
- Inscription
- Subscription

## c. Closing

- Signature of patient
- Signature of physician

## SHARMA NURSING HOME

NAME :- MR . SANTOOSH  
male

AGE :- 20 years

Sex :-

Address :- 48,,surya Nagar , Vijayawada

RX ( SUPERSCRIPTION)

Sodium Bicarbonate

3 gms

Compound tincture of cardamom

2 ml

Simple syrup

6 ml

Water Q.S

90 ml

(Inscription)

Two times a day

( Subscription)

(SIGNATURE)

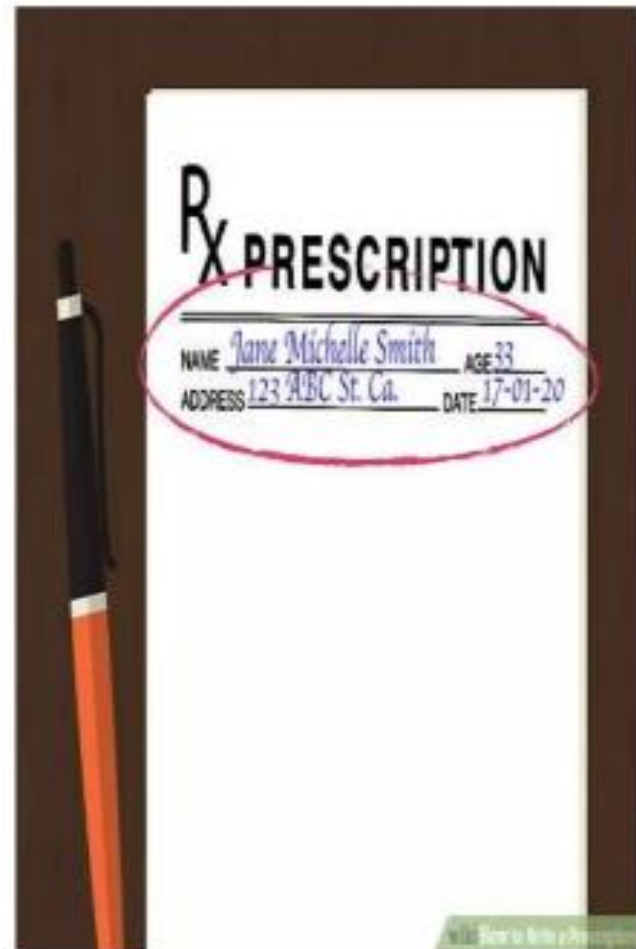
Dr.Gowtham Sharma

M.B.B.S, M.D

Reg no. 14L/14296

**Date :**

- Written on the prescription by prescriber.
- To know when the medicines were last dispensed.
- To prevent the misuse of the drug by the patients.
- The prescription which prescribe narcotic or other habit forming drug, must bear the date, so as to avoid the misuse of prescription if it is presented by the patient, a number of times for dispensing.





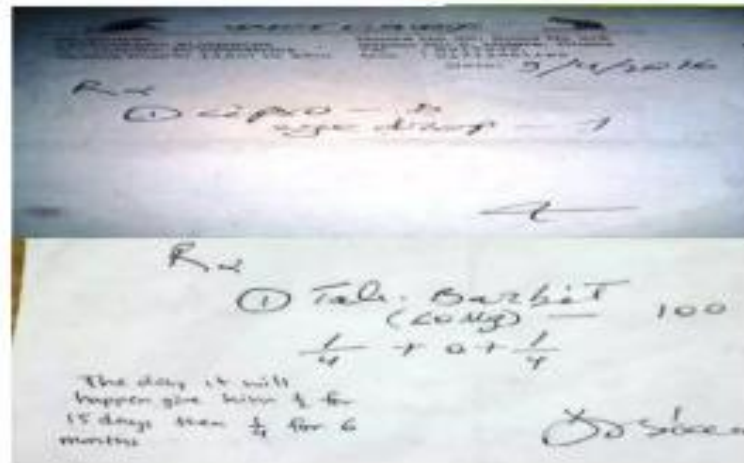
## **Name, Age, Sex & Address of the patient:**

- It helps to identify the prescription. Especially in case of children, Age & sex of the patient helps the pharmacist to check the prescriber dose of medication.
- In case, if any of this information is missing in the prescription, the same may be included by the pharmacist after proper enquiry from the patient.



## Superscription:

- It is represented by symbol Rx.
- Rx is the abbreviation of Latin word recipe, meaning 'take thou' or 'You Take'.
- In older days, the symbol was considered to be originated from the sign of Jupiter, god of healing.
- This symbol was employed by the ancient in requesting god for the quick recovery of the patient.



- **The inscription – 1.line**
- Immediately below the superscription
- Contains the name, exact formulation and unit dose of the drug to be dispensed

The image shows a medical prescription form. At the top, it has a header with a star icon, the number '992785', and the word 'RECEIPT'. Below this, there are fields for 'Provozovna a podnikatel' (Fox George), 'Rodné číslo' (01051980), and 'Adresa pacienta' (Main Street 5, London). The main body of the form contains the inscription 'Rp. ✓ Brufen tbl 400 mg', which is circled in red. To the right of the inscription, there are fields for 'cena' and 'Rp. Kč'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Dne:' and a footer with small text.

- Nowadays, the majority of the drugs are prescribed which are already in a suitable formulation.
- The pharmacist is required to dispense the readymade form of drugs. So, compounding of prescription is almost eliminated.

### **Renewal instruction :**

- the prescriber indicate on every prescription order, whether it may be renewed and if so, how many times.
- It is very important particularly in the prescription containing the narcotic and habit forming drugs to prevent its misuse.

### **Signature, address & registration number of the prescriber :**

Information about physician is essential so that the doctor could be contacted in emergency.

- Prescription must be signed with Prescriber's own hand.
- Address and Registration No should be written in case of narcotic or other habit forming drugs to prevent its misuse.

Phone: 555-3752

DEA # AC1273628

DEA Number

Eva Adams, M.D.  
298 Appleby Street  
Eden, NY 14057

Prescriber Information

Name Laurel Hardy Age 41

Patient Information

Address Abel St, Eden Date 06/18/86

Date Prescription was Written

*Rx*

Superscription  
(Meaning Recipe)

*Phenobarbital 0.075*  
*Dimethicone 0.020*  
*Magnesium Carbonate 0.050*

Inscription  
(Medication prescribed)

*m. fl. 12*

Subscription  
(Instructions to Pharmacist)

*Disp 2 capsules tid and ho*

Sig  
(Directions for Patient)

Refill \_\_\_\_\_ Edwards M.D.

Special Instructions

THIS PRESCRIPTION WILL BE FILLED ONLY IF THE  
PHARMACEUTICAL BRAND "da v" IS IN THE BOX BELOW



Dispense as written



### **A Prescription should be:**

- Kept simple
- Abbreviations free (if necessary Latin abbreviations should be used)
- Trailing zeros should be avoided, Leading zeros must be added
- It should provide clear and specific directions

## Handling of Prescription

Receiving



Reading & checking



Collecting the materials



Weighing



Compounding



Finishing



## Receiving

- The prescription should be received by pharmacist himself/herself.

It includes

- Reading the prescription
- Checking the prescription
- While receiving a prescription, a pharmacist should not change his facial expression which gives an impression to the patient that he is surprised or confused after seeing the prescription.

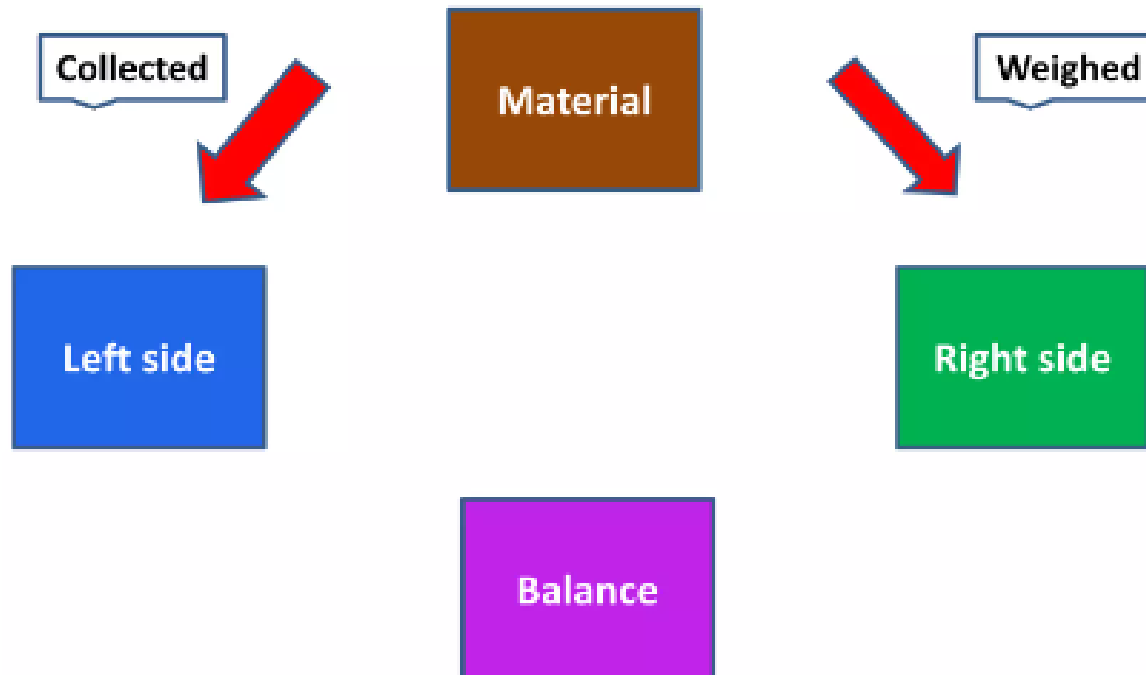


## Reading & Checking

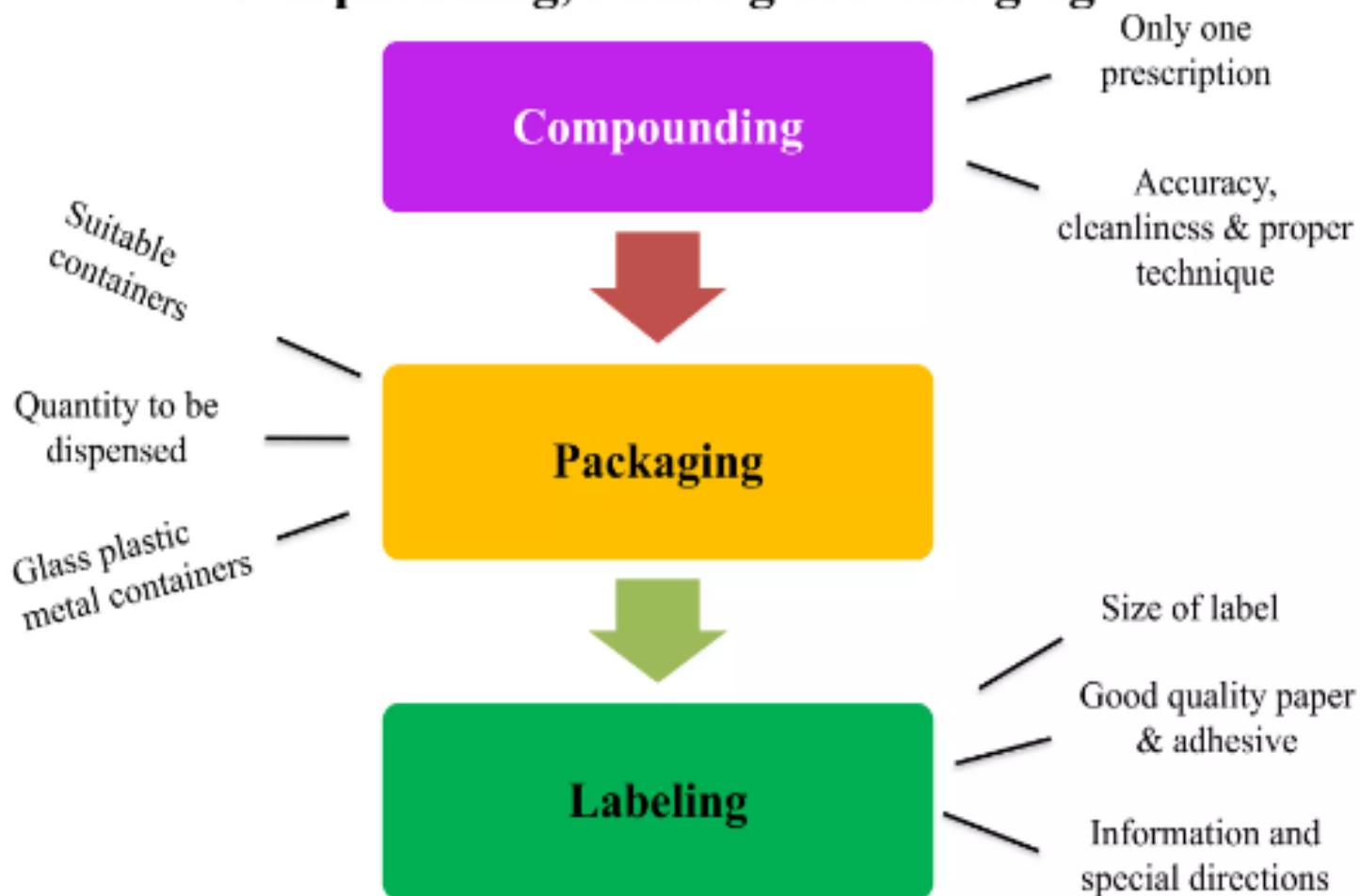
- Prescription should be completely and carefully read from top to bottom.
- Nature of dosage form and time required for preparing.
- If long time is needed for compounding must tell the patient to wait.
- Careful examination of the prescription should be made only behind the counter.
- Any doubt or direction or any error in writing, patient should not come to know about it and should consult the other pharmacist or prescriber.
- Every word and abbreviation must be interpreted correctly.
- Never guess about the meaning of illegible or confusing word.
- Prescription should be checked for any incompatibility.



## Collecting & Weighing the material



## Compounding, labeling & Packaging



### **Common Latin Rx Terms:**

- Some of the common Latin prescription abbreviations include:
- ac (ante cibum) means "before meals"
- bid (bis in die) means "twice a day"
- gt (gutta) means "drop"
- hs (hora somni) means "at bedtime"
- od (oculus dexter) means "right eye"
- os (oculus sinister) means "left eye"
- po (per os) means "by mouth"
- pc (post cibum) means "after meals"
- prn (pro re nata) means "as needed"
- q 3 h (quaque 3 hora) means "every 3 hours"
- qd (quaque die) means "every day"
- qid (quater in die) means "4 times a day"
- Sig (signa) means "write"
- tid (ter in die) means "3 times a day"

**Abbreviation**

**Dose**

**Name of the  
drug**

**Instructions  
for the patient**

**Error  
in  
Prescription**

**Strength of the  
preparation**

**Incompatibilities**

**Dosage form**

### **Abbreviation**

- Abbreviation presents a problem in understanding parts of the prescription order.
- Extreme care should be taken by a pharmacist in interpreting the Abbreviation. Pharmacists should not guess at the meaning of an ambiguous Abbreviation.

### **Name of the drug**

- There are certain drugs whose name look or sound like those of other drugs. Some of the example of such drugs is as under: - Digitoxin and Digoxin

### **Strength of the preparation**

- The strength of the preparation should be stated by the prescriber. It is essential when various strengths of a product are available in market



## **Dosage form of drug prescribed**

- ❖ Many medicines are available in more than one dosage form like as liquid, tablet, capsule, etc.
- ❖ Dosage Form of the product should be written.

## **Dose**

- ❖ Unusually high or low doses should be discussed with the prescriber.
- ❖ Pediatric dosage may present. So pharmacist should consult pediatric posology to avoid an error.
- ❖ Sometime a reasonable dose is administered too frequently

# “The Five Rights”

**Drug**



Is this the **RIGHT** drug?

**Dose**



Is this the **RIGHT** dose?

**Route**



Is this the **RIGHT** route?

**Time**



Is this the **RIGHT** time?

**Patient**



Is this the **RIGHT** patient?

Activate Wind  
Go to PC settings t

## **Instructions for the patient**

The instructions for the patient which are given in the prescription are incomplete or omitted.

The quantity of the drug to be taken, the frequent and timing of administration and route of administration should be clearly given in the prescription so as to avoid any confusion.

## **Incompatibilities**

It is essential to check that there are no pharmaceutical or therapeutic incompatibilities in a prescribed preparation and that different medicines prescribed for the same patient do not interact with each other to produce any harm to patient. Certain antibiotics should not be given with meals since it significantly decrease the absorption of the drug.

**THANK YOU...**