

Knowing Your Medicines

What to know about your medicines?

- The name of your medicines
- The dose you take
- When to take each medicine
- What each medicine is used for
- Possible side-effects/interactions with other prescriptions or OTC medicines

Medicine allergies

Some medicines can cause allergies and bad reactions when you take them. If you have an allergy to any medicines, it's important to write down what happened and tell your medical team.

How to read a medicine label



The diagram shows a medicine label for **PREDNISONE 5MG TABLETS** with the instruction **TAKE 1 TABLET BY MOUTH DAILY**. The label includes the patient's name **Trevor Transition**, address **506 MAIN STREET, ANYTOWN CO 11111**, and date **DATE: 07/09/19**. The prescription number is **RX 0123456-7891** and the expiration date is **EXPIRATION DATE 07/09/20**. The quantity is **QTY 90** with **6 REFILLS BEFORE 07/09/20**. The pharmacy is **Hometown Pharmacy** at **123 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, CO 22222** with phone number **(800) 555-1234**. The doctor is **DR. J SMITH**. A barcode is also present. Callouts on the left explain: 'Person who is taking this medication' points to the patient name; 'Name of medication and strength of drug' points to the drug name; 'Instruction for how to take medication' points to the daily instruction; 'Prescription number. Use this number when calling for refills.' points to the RX number; 'Number of refills available. Must use before this date.' points to the refills information; and 'Pharmacy phone number to call for refills' points to the pharmacy phone number. Callouts on the right explain: 'Use medication before this date' points to the expiration date; and 'Name of doctor who ordered medication' points to the doctor's name.

Refilling a prescription

Your doctor may include refills with your prescription. Check the label to see how many refills have been given. Options on how to refill your prescription:

- **Call the pharmacy:** Call the phone number listed on the label. You'll need to tell them the prescription (Rx) number on the medicine label. Talk to your pharmacist.
- **Go to the pharmacy in person:** Go to the pharmacy where you get your medicines and request a refill. You can wait to get your medicine or come back later to pick it up.
- **Mail-Order:** You can use a mail-order pharmacy that will ship your medicines to you.

Make sure you don't run out of medicine! Pay attention to when you are running low on medicine and get your refill a month before your bottle runs out. Medications may require a prior authorization from your insurance and may take longer to refill. You may need to see your care team before getting a refill.

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