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Diploma in Pharmacy 2nd Year Community Pharmacy & Management Chapter 3 : Prescription & Prescription Handling	
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Chapter 3

Prescription & Prescription Handling

PRESCRIPTION

- → A medical prescription is a written order from a doctor to a chemist that includes instructions for preparing and dispensing medicines to a patient
- → A prescription order may be written and issued by a physician, dentist, veterinarian, or other properly licensed medical practitioner.
- → The prescription for each patient is a unique entity, designating a specific medication for a specific patient at a specific time.

Types of Prescription

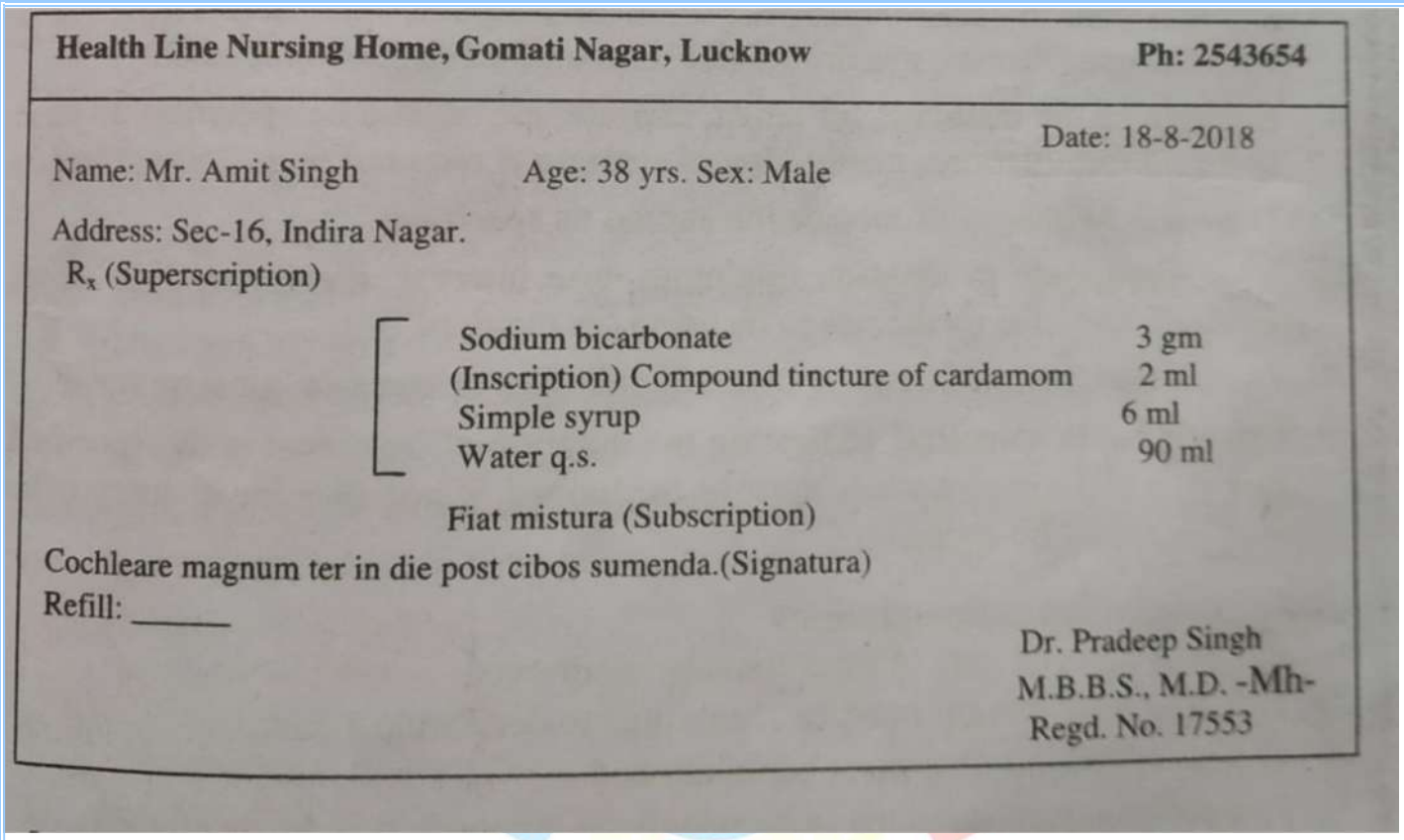
There are mainly two types of prescriptions:

1) **Compounded Prescription:**
   - These prescriptions are also known as formula magistralis, a Latin word meaning extemporaneous prescription or teacher.
   - In these prescriptions one or more active ingredients are mixed with one or more pharmaceutical additives (vehicle, suspending agent, preservatives, etc.).
   - Drug, doses, and pharmaceutical forms required by the patient are selected by the physician and thereafter the medication is prepared accordingly by the pharmacist.
   - Each drug in the prescription is written on a separate line in a sequence.
2) **Non-Compounded Prescription:**
   - These prescriptions are also called formula officinalis, a Latin word meaning workshop. In order to obtain a finished product, two or more ingredients are not required to be mixed in these prescriptions.
   - It is a pre-compounded order comprising of either a single drug or a mixture of drugs provided by a pharmaceutical company.

Parts of Prescription

A proper prescription has following information.

1) **Date :** The prescriber must mention the date on prescription.
2) Name , Age , Sex , and address of the patient : Name , Age , Sex , and address of the patient must be mentioned on the prescription.
3) **Superscription :** Rx is used to denote superscription , it is mentioned at beginning of the prescription . (it was used to prayer Jupiter the (God of healing) for the recovery of patient).
4) **Inscription :** It is the most important part of prescription , it contains the name and quantity and other information of prescribed drugs .(active constituent , adjuvant , vehicle).
5) **Subscription :** In this part prescriber provide directions for Pharmacist such as drug administer timing , like bd (twice a day).
6) **Sign. address , and registration no. of prescriber :** The name and the signature should be hand -written . All other parts of prescription may be hand written , printed or typed.



Health Line Nursing Home, Gomati Nagar, Lucknow Ph: 2543654

Date: 18-8-2018

Name: Mr. Amit Singh Age: 38 yrs. Sex: Male

Address: Sec-16, Indira Nagar.

R_x (Superscription)

Sodium bicarbonate	3 gm
(Inscription) Compound tincture of cardamom	2 ml
Simple syrup	6 ml
Water q.s.	90 ml

Fiat mistura (Subscription)

Cochleare magnum ter in die post cibos sumenda.(Signatura)

Refill: _____

Dr. Pradeep Singh
M.B.B.S., M.D. -Mh-
Regd. No. 17553

Legality of Prescriptions

The minimum requirements for a legal prescription are as follows:

- Written or printed clearly with a permanent ink.
- Contains correct date.
- Contains inked signature of the prescriber.
- Bears address and qualification of the prescriber.
- Contains name and address of the patient.
- Contains age of children below 12 years.

Prescription Handling

Prescription handling is a part of Good Pharmacy practices , following steps should be followed during prescription handling.

1. **Receiving :** It is the duty of pharmacist to receive the prescription from the patient with a good facial expression.
2. **Reading And Checking carefully :** it is duty of pharmacist to check prescriber's signature , date , and prescribed drugs.
3. **Collecting the Materials :** Now the pharmacist gather all the prescribed materials at a clean place.
4. **labeling And packaging :** After collecting all the material are to be dispensed , should be labeled and packed.

Labelling of Dispensed Medication

- Labelling means to display some things .
- Labeling dispensed medicine is a pharmacy practice in which all the medicines are dispensed by a pharmacist are provided with some essential information in written form that a consumer needs to take his / her medicine safel y and effectively .
- Three Types of labelling is commonly used in pharmacy are :
    - Main Label
    - Ancillary Label
    - Pictograms

1) Main Label

- Following Information are provided by main label :
    - Name And Address of patient
    - Name And Address Of supplier
    - Prices And Quantity Details
    - Storage And Shelf Life
    - Instructions to the patients : like shake before use , take with milk .

2) Ancillary Labels

- Ancillary Means to support . The ancillary labels provide essential informatio n that helps a patient to take his /her medicine in a safe and effective way .
- These type of information are given in ancillary labels
- For External Use Only , Drowsiness Warning , Interaction with food or drinks

3) Pictograms

- Pharmaceutical Pictograms are tools in the form of picture that reduce the misunderstanding on a drug treatment , and attract attention to remind drug related information .

Brief Instructions On medication Usage

→ The medicines are being prescribed or given OTC to a Patient , he should get a brief knowledge of the medicines like :

- What conditions it will treat ?
- How and when it should be taken ?
- What side effects it can produce ?
- How it should be stored ?
- what are its contraindications ?
- for how long it is to be taken ?
- What to do if a does is missed ?
- Whether it is to be taken with food or without food ?

→ The above-mentioned information is provided to a patient by the doctor and pharmacist verbally, in the patient information leaflets, and in Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) leaflets about a specific medication

→ The patient should put forth the following questions when a doctor prescribes medication or when buying OTC drugs from a pharmacy:

- What is the effect and benefit of taking the medicine?
- What is the dose, frequency, and time of taking the medicine?
- What to do if a dose is missed?
- Whether the medicine is to be taken with or without food?
- Whether the medicine is to be crushed, chewed, or swallowed whole?
- For how long the medicine is to be taken?
- If it is necessary to finish all the medicines?
- What is the active ingredient of the medicine?
- Is there any generic brand of the medicine that could be taken to save money or any other alternative if it does not produce the desired effect?
- What are the possible side effects of the medicine, and how can they be managed?

Good Dispensing Practices

→ Good dispensing practices are to deliver right medicines of desired quantity to the right patient in right dose , strength , frequency and dosage form with clear instruction in written form and orally with appropriate packaging for maintaining the medicine quality and efficacy .

Dispensing Process

➢ Dispensing is the process of preparing and delivering prescribed medicines to a patient, along with clear instructions, suggestions, and counselling (if needed) on the use of such medicines.

➢ It involves precise understanding of the prescribed medicines and accurate preparation and labelling of medicines to be used by the patient

Following steps are dispensing process :

1. Receiving and Validating the prescription .
2. Understanding and interpreting the prescription .
3. Preparing (gathering) and labeling items for issue
4. making a final check .
5. Recording the actions taken
6. Issuing medicine to the patient with clear instructions

Step 1 :

Receiving and Validating the Prescription :

→ On receiving prescription, the concerned staff member should confirm the patient's name avoid mixing up of prescriptions. The patient's name and identity should also be crose-checked while issuing the medicines. Matching numbers or symbols (one attached to the prescription and one given to the patient) may also be used emure that the right patient gets the right medicines, especially if more than one patient has the same surname.

Step 2 :

Understanding and Interpreting the Prescription :

→ A prescription should be interpreted by a staff member who can

- Read the prescription
- Understand the used abbreviations correctly
- Confirm that the doses prescribed are in the normal range for the patient as per the gender and age
- Correctly perform any dose calculations and issue quantity
- Detect any common drug interactions.

Step 3 :

Preparing and Labelling Items for Issue :

→ This forms the central part of the dispensing process, including self-checking or counter-checking for accuracy Item preparation and labelling is done only after understanding the prescription and calculating the quantity. It is a good practice writing the label as a self-check

Step 4 :

Making a Final Check :

→ Another staff member should check the dispensed medicines against the prescription and the stock containers. In the final check, the prescription should be read and understood before looking at the dispensed medicines; the suitability of prescribed doses and drug interactions should be checked; the identity of dispensed medicine should be checked; the labels should be checked; and the prescription should be counter-signed.

Step 5 :

Recording the Action Taken :

→ The issued medicines should be recorded to efficiently run a dispensary, to verify the stocks used in dispensing, and to trace any problems with medicines issued to patients.

Step 6 :

Issuing Medicine to the Patient with Clear Instructions and Advice :

→ The medicine should be issued to the patient or his/her representative, with clear instructions and any required advice about the use of medicine. Level of informational detail about potential side effects varies. Verbal advice should be given as illiteracy and poor labelling can cause problems.

Dispensing Errors

→ Dispensing Error is a discrepancy (mismatching) between a prescription and the medicine that a pharmacy delivers to the patient or to the ward on the this prescription .

Causes Of Dispensing Errors

- Wrong understanding of prescription.
- Poor hand writing of prescriber .
- Look -Alike and Sound Alike (LASA) drugs .
- Similar packaging and similar labelling of different drugs .
- Non cooperative staff
- Incorrect labeling of drugs .
- Misunderstanding of abbreviations .

Strategies To Minimise Dispensing Errors

→ The strategies used to minimise dispensing errors are bellow

- Ensuring Correct Entry of the prescription
- Being careful about LASA drugs
- Being careful with decimal points , zeros and abbreviations.
- reducing distractions
- Reducing stress and balancing heavy workloads.
- Storing drugs properly
- Carefully checking all prescriptions
- Providing Detailed Patient Counselling