D.PHARM • SECOND YEAR

Community Pharmacy & Managem

CHAPTER 3

Prescription and Prescription Handling



ENGLISH CHAPTER NOTES

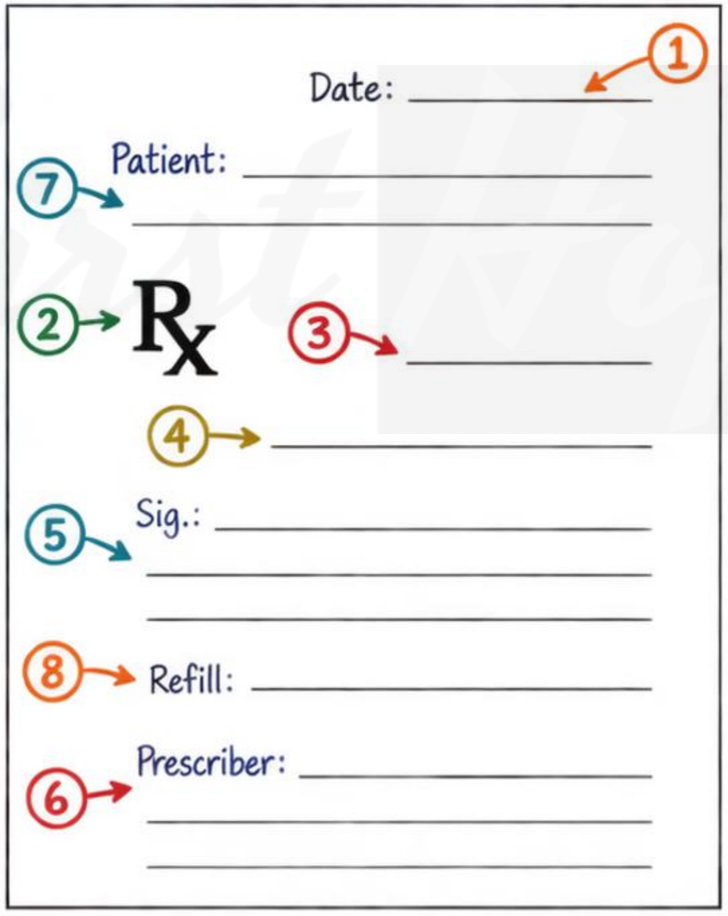
DIPLOMA IN PHARMACY

PARTS OF A PRESCRIPTION

Definition of Prescription

A prescription is a legal written or electronic instruction from an authorized prescriber to a pharmacist to prepare and dispense medicine for a specific patient.
It authorizes supply, gives patient-specific directions, and serves as a clinical order and medical record.

1. **Date** — When the prescription was issued; helps record-keeping and assessment of validity.
2. **Superscription (Rx)** — Recipe means "take thou"; marks the start.
3. **Inscription** — Drug name, strength and dosage form, such as tablet or suspension.
4. **Subscription** — Directions to the pharmacist for preparation or dispensing, especially compounded medicines.



5. **Signatura (Sig.)** — Patient directions: dose, route, frequency, duration and special instructions.
6. **Prescriber's Details** — Name, qualification, registration number, address and signature.
7. **Patient's Details** — Name, age, sex, address and relevant weight; sometimes diagnosis.
8. **Refill Information** — Whether repeats are authorized and how many, subject to law.

LEGALITY OF PRESCRIPTIONS

Legal requirements

1. Follow the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and applicable Rules in India.
2. The prescriber must be authorized, such as a doctor, dentist or veterinarian acting within their scope.
3. Check date, signature, prescriber details and patient information.
4. Drug name, strength, dose and directions must be clear and complete.
5. Verify authenticity; check secure access for e-prescriptions.
6. Tampering, forgery and unauthorized alterations are illegal.

Different requirements in India

Category	Requirement
Schedule H	Retail supply requires an RMP prescription.
Schedule H1	Prescription required; supply must also be entered in the specified separate register.
Schedule X	Prescription, duplicate-copy retention and additional storage/record rules apply.
NDPS medicines	Follow the applicable Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances authorization and record requirements.

Pause and clarify

- These categories do not all have identical record-retention rules.
- Unclear or doubtful prescription? Contact the prescriber and document clarification before supply.

PRESCRIPTION HANDLING

A systematic, ethical process

1. Receiving

Accept a valid prescription. Confirm patient or caregiver identity; verify e-prescription authenticity.

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2. Reading and Interpreting

Check prescriber credentials, drug name, strength, dose and route. Clarify unusual doses or ambiguous abbreviations.

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3. Clinical Check

Review allergies, contraindications, drug interactions, duplicate therapy and appropriateness.

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4. Data Entry and Records

Enter prescription details in software or a register. Update the medication history.

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5. Dispensing and Labelling

Select the correct medicine, strength, form and quantity. Label clearly and perform a final accuracy check.

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6. Counseling and Education

Explain dose, timing, route, side effects, storage and precautions. Answer questions and confirm understanding.

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7. Documentation and Filing

Keep required records or copies. Follow the specific rules for narcotic and psychotropic drugs.

Resolve doubts with the prescriber before dispensing; never guess.

MAIN LABEL (PRIMARY LABEL)

Illustrative label fields

Pharmacy name and address : _____

Patient name : _____

Date of dispensing : _____

Drug name and strength : _____

Dosage form and quantity : _____

Directions: dose • route • frequency • duration : _____

Storage instructions : _____

Cautionary statements, when needed : _____

Batch number • Expiry date : _____

Applicable Schedule warning : _____

This is a field template, not a prescription or a medicine recommendation.

The primary label is the main label attached to the medicine container by the pharmacist. It helps the patient use the medicine correctly and safely.

1 Directions for use

Write clear patient-specific instructions. Avoid umexplained abbreviations.

2 Traceability

Preserve batch and expiry information. Use an appropriate beyond-use date when required for prepared medicines.

3 Legal warning

Use the applicable statutory Schedule wording and format. A dispensing label must not hide essential information on the original pack.

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