

How to Read a Prescription Label

Abbreviation	What It Stands For
Qty.	quantity
Rx.	prescription
No.	number
#	number
Ref.	refills
mg.	milligrams
ml.	milliliters
tab.	tablet
Tbsp.	tablespoon
tsp.	teaspoon

Prescription labels may vary from one pharmacy to another but they typically share the following elements:

- Pharmacy's name, address and telephone number
- Prescription number assigned only to that prescription
- Date you are filling the prescription
- Patient's name and address
- Instructions for taking the medication
- Number of refills
- Expiration date

You may also find that some words on your prescription label have been abbreviated. The chart on this page shows some common abbreviations and what they stand for. If you are not sure that you understand your medication label, do not be embarrassed: **Ask your pharmacist. He or she is there to assist you.**

How to read your medicine label

Pharmacy name and address: Local Pharmacy, 123 MAIN STREET, ANYTOWN, USA 11111

Doctor's name: DR. C. JONES

Drugstore phone number: (800) 555-5555

Number used by the drugstore to identify this drug for your refills: NO 0060023-082981

Person who gets this drug: JANE SMITH, 456 MAIN STREET ANYTOWN, US 11111

Instructions about how often and when to take this drug: TAKE ONE CAPSULE BY MOUTH THREE TIMES DAILY FOR 10 DAYS UNTIL ALL TAKEN

Name of drug and strength of drug: AMOXICILLIN 500MG CAPSULES

Number of refills before certain date: NO REFILLS - DR. AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED

Prescription fill date: DATE 06/23/18

USE BEFORE 06/23/18 SLF/SLF

Don't use this drug past this date

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