

CHAPTER – 3 Prescription

3.1 Introduction

- ❖ A prescription is a written order by a physician, dentist, veterinarian or any RMP (registered medical practitioner) to a pharmacist to compound and dispense the specific medicine for the patient.
- ❖ Prescription is actually a direct link between physician, Pharmacist and patient.
- ❖ It is a silent information regarding the dispensing of prescribed medication.

3.2 Part of Prescription

1. Heading

- Date
- Personal data of patient

2. Body

- Superscription, Inscription & Subscription
- Signature
- Renewal instruction

3. Closing

- Signature, address, and registration number of the Prescriber

1. Heading

- Date:** - It help a pharmacist to find out the date of prescribing and date of Prescription for filling the Prescription.
- Personal data of patient:** - It included the Name, Sex, Age and Address of Patient.
- Name:** - Name and Address of the patient written in the Prescription because it serves to identify the Prescription in case.
- Sex and Age:** - Sex and Age of patient specially use in the case children for help the Pharmacist to check the Prescribed dose of medication.

2. Body

- Superscription:** -
 - ✓ It is represented by Rx.
 - ✓ It is represented by a symbol Rx an abbreviation for recipe, meaning is you take.
 - ✓ This symbol as considered as a prayer to Jupiter (God of healing). Sign of Jupiter employed as request for healing.

Inscription: -

- ✓ It is main part of Prescription order contain the name and quantity of ingredient.
- ✓ It also contains manner in which medicine should be taken.
- ✓ The inscription has divided into following parts.

A. Base: It is the active medicament which produces the required therapeutic effect. **e.g.:** in sulphur ointment, sulphur acts as base.

B. Adjuvant: It enhances the action of the medicament or to make the product more palatable. **e.g.:** In turpentine liniment, Camphor acts as adjuvant.

C. Correctives: It is the substance which corrects any defects that may occur in the preparation. **e.g.:** In castor oil emulsion, gum acacia acts as correctives.

D. Vehicle: Vehicle is a medium in which the medicaments are dissolved or suspended. The inscription may be written in the following order. Solid ingredients must be written first, then liquids and finally vehicle.

Subscription: -

- ✓ This part contains the prescriber's direction to the pharmacist for preparing the Prescription number of doses to be dispense.

a) The dosage form: **e.g.:** mixture, emulsion, powder, ointment

b) Instructions relating to its preparation

c) Quantity to be sent and manner of sending

Signature or transcription: It gives direction to the patients regarding

- ✓ The method of administration or application
- ✓ The quality or number of doses to be taken
- ✓ The time of administration or application.
- ✓ The vehicle of administration.

Renewal instruction: It indicates on every prescription order, whether it may be renewed and how many times.

3. Closing

Signature of Physician: -

- ✓ A prescription is never complete without the signature of the prescriber.
- ✓ Prescription must be signed with prescribers own hand.
- ✓ Address and Registration no should be written in case of dangerous drugs.

Example: prescription

GUPTA NURSING HOME		Ph: 256603
+ Delhi – Saharanpur Road Shamli (U.P.) +		
		Date: 28-3-21
Name: Mr. Ratan Goel	Age: 43 yrs	Sex: Male
Address: 42, Gandhi Nagar Muzaffarnagar		
Rx (Superscription)		
(Inscription)	Sodium bicarbonate	3 g
	Compound tincture of cardamom	2 ml
	Simple Syrup	6 ml
	Water q.s	90 ml
Fiat mistura (subscription)		
Sig Cochleare magnum ter in die post cibos sumenda. (Signatura)		
Refill: _____	Sd/- Dr M. K. GUPTA M.B.B.S., M.D. Regd. No. XXXXXX	

3.3 Handling of Prescription/ Dispensing process

The following steps are to be followed during handling of Prescription.

1. Receiving

2. Reading and Checking

3. Collecting and Weighing the material

4. Compounding, Labeling and Packing

1. Receiving: -

- ✓ Pharmacist should himself receive the prescription and reading checking the prescription.

2. Reading the prescription: -

- ✓ Prescription should be completely and carefully read from top to bottom.

□ Checking of Prescription: -

- ✓ Prescription should be checking for any incompatibility.

3. Collecting and Weighing the material

- ✓ Before the compounding the prescription all the material required for it should be collected on the left-hand side of the balance After weighting the material it should be shifter to RHS of the balance.
- ✓ This give a check of ingredient which have been weight while compounding the label of every stock should be read at least 3 time in order to avoid any error.
- ✓ When taken from the self or drawer.
- ✓ When the content is removed from weighing and measuring.
- ✓ When the content is return back to their proper place.

4. Compounding, Labeling and Packing

- ✓ Compounding should be carried out in a neat place. All the equipment required are cleaned and dried thoroughly.
- ✓ Only one prescription should be compounding at a time
- ✓ The size of the label should be proportional to the size of the container.
- ✓ Label should contain the required suggestions the patient.

5. Make a final check record the action taken issue medicines to the patient with clear instruction and advice.

3.4 Good Dispensing Practice

Good Dispensing Practice ensures that the right medicines of desired quality are delivered correctly to the right patient with the right dose, strength, frequency, dosage form and quantity, together with clear instructions, both written and verbal and with appropriate packaging suitable for maintaining the quality and efficacy of the medicine.

A safe, clean and organised working environment provides the basis for good dispensing practice. The dispensing environment includes:

- ❖ Qualified / trained staff
- ❖ Appropriate physical surroundings
- ❖ Adequate shelving and storage areas
- ❖ Proper work surfaces
- ❖ Suitable equipment
- ❖ Necessary packaging materials

3.5 Dispensing Errors and Strategies to Minimize Them

There are so many sources of medication error or prescription errors.

Legibility:

- Checking:** No one persons are available to recheck the full medications.
- Too many customers:** Due to too many customers, the dispenser needs more time to properly handle. But customers have no time to wait that's why errors occur.
- Lack of concentrations:** Every dispenser should properly concentrate on prescription if they not. Error occurs.

- Too many phone calls and social media:**

This is also very important to stay out of mobiles or keep it switched off at the time of working.

- Lack of experience:** Experience is very important in this field.

The following is a list of strategies for minimizing dispensing errors:

- ❖ Ensure correct entry of the prescription.
- ❖ Confirm that the prescription is correct and complete.
- ❖ Reduce distraction when possible.
- ❖ Beware of look-alike, soundalike drugs.
- ❖ Be careful with zeros and abbreviations.
- ❖ Organize the workplace.

