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| **EL Civics: Health Care (Obj 28.2) • BL**  **Task 2: Read and Interpret Medicine Labels** |
| **Language & Literacy Objectives:**  10. Explain medicine labels and medical warning labels. |
| **INTRODUCTION** |
| In this lesson, students will learn how to read and interpret medicine labels. |
| **ASSESSMENT TASK – 12 points possible** |
| Part 1: Given pictures of six medicine labels, students will identify whether the labels are for prescription or non-prescription medication.  Part 2: Answer level-appropriate questions about a prescription label. |
| **SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES** |
| * Teacher and/or students bring in actual medicine packaging, including drug warnings. *[Class set available for checkout from Resource Office.]* Have students work in small groups to identify information on the label, then sort into categories, e.g. prescription/over-the-counter, brand name/generic, take with food/take on empty stomach, etc. Use document reader to project objects to whole class. * Students bring in advertisements from magazines, newspapers or the Internet for prescription or over-the counter medicines. Work in groups to determine potential uses, warnings, etc. |

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| **HANDOUTS PROVIDED** |
| 1. Related Vocabulary 2. Discussion Questions 3. Introduction: How to Read Medicine Labels 4. Practice: Prescription or OTC? (with Answer Key) 5. Practice: Reading a Prescription Label (with Answer Key) |
| **COMPUTER LAB IDEAS** |
| * Create a medication/allergy log for yourself or a family member. List all current medications, including both prescription and over-the-counter. Be sure to include name, strength (dosage), instructions for use, etc. Encourage students to keep a copy with them at all times, or at least make it available to a family member in case of emergency. * Use the Drug Interaction Checker from drugs.com (see Related Websites) to look up drug and food interactions for medications the students take or are thinking about taking. * Review health-related vocabulary using software (e.g. Oxford Picture Dictionary) and online resources (see Related Websites). |

**Related Vocabulary**

*adapted from* [*Dictionary.com*](http://www.dictionary.com/) *&* [*Longman Dictionary Online*](http://www.ldoceonline.com/)

**prescription medication**: medicine you can get only with a doctor’s note. Examples:

[](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walgreens_Prescription_Bottle.jpg) [](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fe/Ortho_tricyclen.jpg)

**over-the-counter medication (OTC)**: medicine you can buy at any store, like CVS, Walgreens, or Target. Also called **non-prescription medication.** Examples:

[](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup.jpg#/media/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup_(loose_crop).jpg) [](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scpetrel/3172234664)

**pharmacy:** drugstore where you can get prescription medication, like CVS or Walgreens.

**Rx # (prescription number):** number used by the pharmacy to identify your medication.

**patient:** person who takes the medication.

**refill**: getting another bottle of prescription medication without a new doctor’s note.

**medication name:** name of the medicine.

**instructions for use**: how much, when, and how to take medicine. For example, “Take one capsule every 12 hours with food.”

**exp. date (expiration date):** last date that the medicine is ok to take.

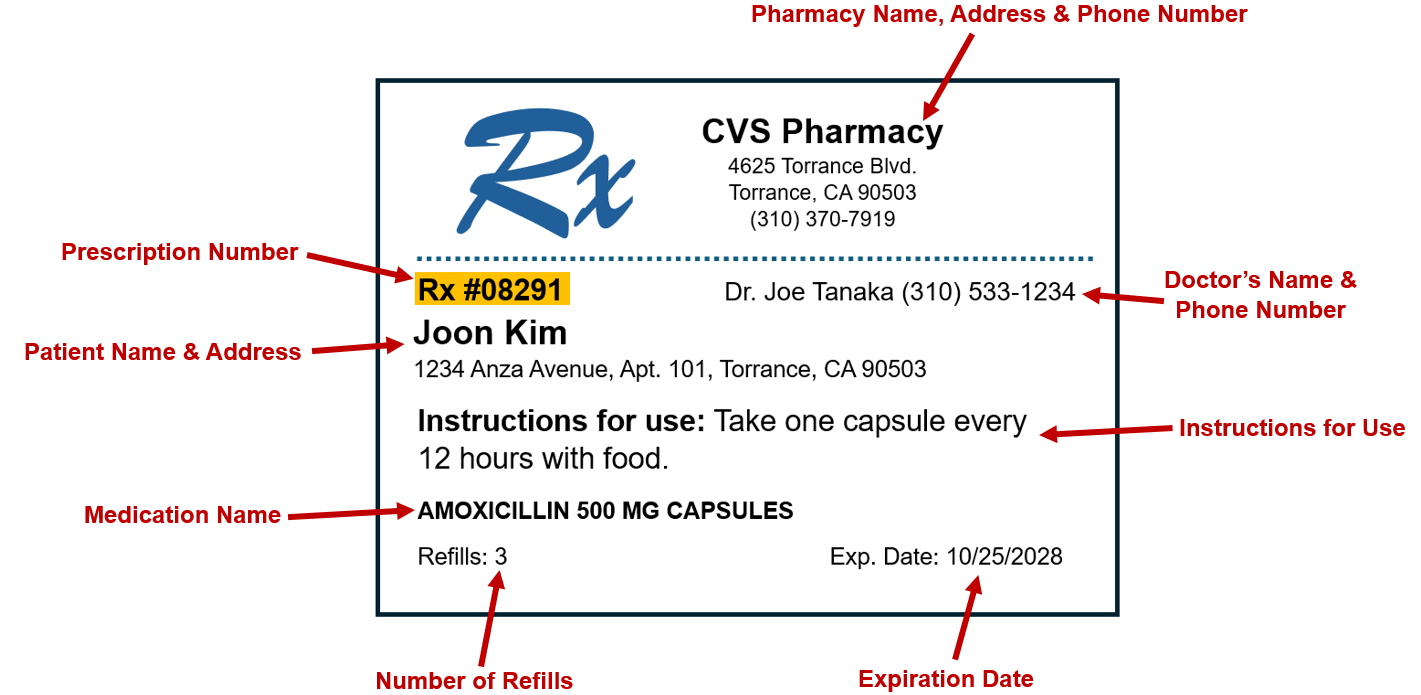
**Discussion Questions: Reading Medicine Labels**

1. What prescription drugs are most common in your native country?
2. How expensive are prescription drugs in your native country?
3. How expensive are over-the-counter (OTC) drugs in your native country?
4. What other items do pharmacies sell in your native country?

**Introduction: How to Read Medicine Labels**

adapted from [Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia](https://pans.ns.ca/prescription-labels-how-read-them)

SAMPLE PRESCRIPTION LABEL



**PRACTICE: PRESCRIPTION OR OTC?**

***Directions****: Look at the pictures below. Write “****prescription****” or “****OTC****” under each picture.*

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| [Box of Claritin-D 24 hour allergy medicine. Created by Shardayyy Photography on Flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/shardayyy/5551457461) | [Bottle of Tylenol Extra Strength Acetaminophen Rapid Release Gelcaps. Created by Colin on Wikimedia Commons.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup.jpg#/media/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup_(loose_crop).jpg) | [Prescription bottle for Prednisone 20 mg tablets from Target Pharmacy. Created by Bart on Flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bartificial/122164551/) |
| [Bottle of prescription medication for Warfarin 5 mg tablets from Walgreens. Created by IagoQnsi on Wikimedia Commons.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walgreens_Prescription_Bottle.jpg) | [Bottle of Vicks NyQuil D Cold & Flu medicine. Created by scpetrel on flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scpetrel/3172234664) | [Circular birth control pill case with prescription label. Created by BetteDavisEyes at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fe/Ortho_tricyclen.jpg) |

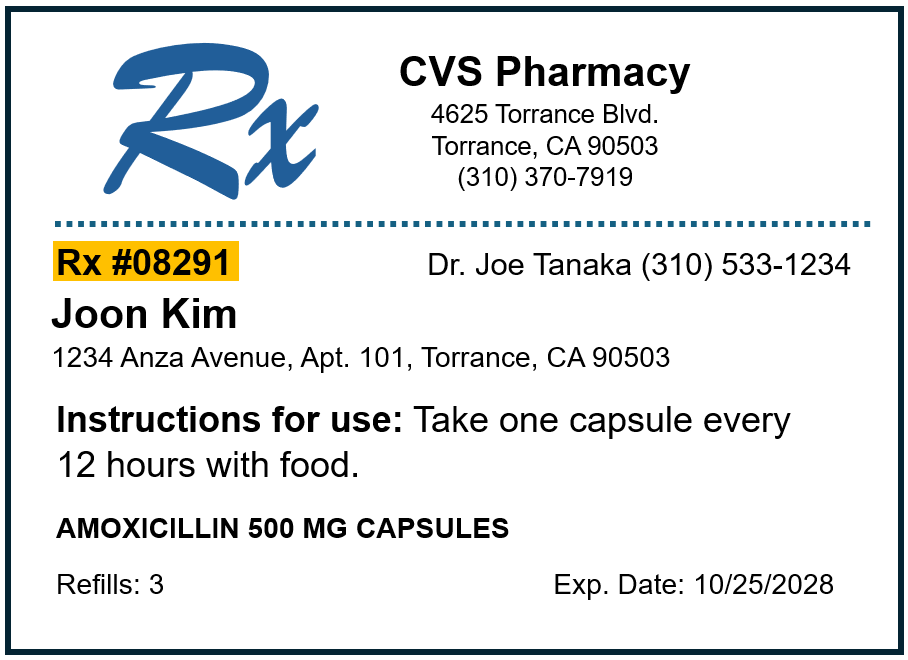
**ANSWER KEY: PRESCRIPTION OR OTC?**

***Directions****: Look at the pictures below. Write “****prescription****” or “****OTC****” under each picture.*

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| [Box of Claritin-D 24 hour allergy medicine. Created by Shardayyy Photography on Flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/shardayyy/5551457461)   1. **OTC** | [Bottle of Tylenol Extra Strength Acetaminophen Rapid Release Gelcaps. Created by Colin on Wikimedia Commons.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup.jpg#/media/File:Tylenol_bottle_closeup_(loose_crop).jpg)   1. **OTC** | [Prescription bottle for Prednisone 20 mg tablets from Target Pharmacy. Created by Bart on Flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/bartificial/122164551/)   1. **prescription** |
| [Bottle of prescription medication for Warfarin 5 mg tablets from Walgreens. Created by IagoQnsi on Wikimedia Commons.](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Walgreens_Prescription_Bottle.jpg)   1. **prescription** | [Bottle of Vicks NyQuil D Cold & Flu medicine. Created by scpetrel on flickr.](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scpetrel/3172234664)   1. **OTC** | [Circular birth control pill case with prescription label. Created by BetteDavisEyes at English Wikipedia, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/fe/Ortho_tricyclen.jpg)   1. **prescription** |

**PRACTICE: READING A PRESCRIPTION LABEL**

***Directions****: Look at the prescription label. Fill in the information below.*

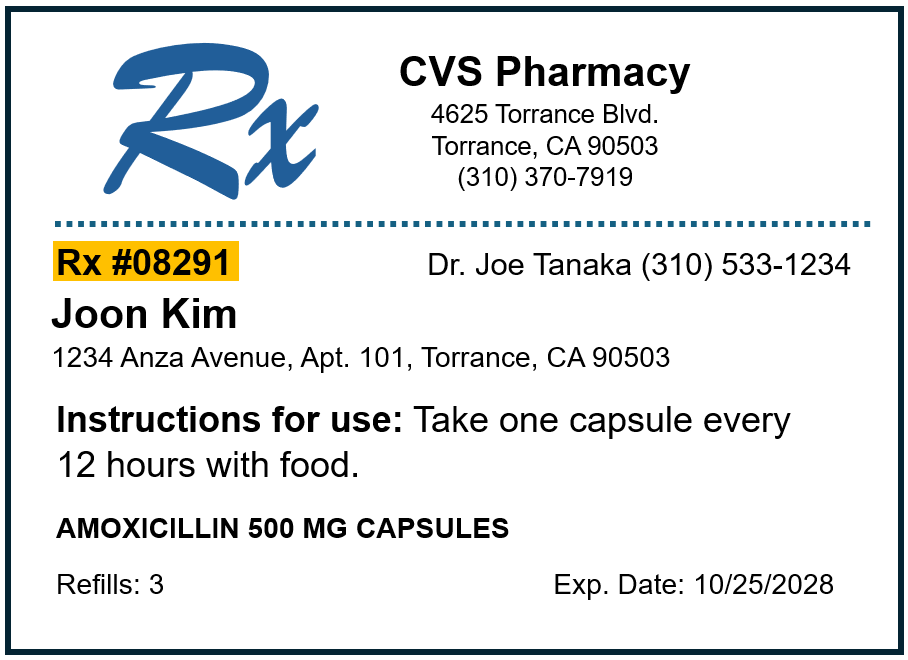


adapted from [Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia](https://pans.ns.ca/prescription-labels-how-read-them)

1. Prescription number:
2. Name of drug:
3. Number of refills left:

**ANSWER KEY: READING A PRESCRIPTION LABEL**

***Directions****: Look at the prescription label. Fill in the information below.*



adapted from [Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia](https://pans.ns.ca/prescription-labels-how-read-them)

1. Prescription number: 08291
2. Name of drug: Amoxicillin
3. Number of refills left: 3