



LifeSmarts
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CONTENT VOCABULARY: HEALTH & SAFETY

Drug Facts Label

AAPC – American Association of Poison Control Centers

Acetaminophen – A drug that elevates the body’s pain threshold and lowers fever. The most widely used pain reliever in the United States

Active Ingredient – The drug component(s) of a medicine

Analgesics – This category of drugs relieves pain

Anti-inflammatory – This category of drugs reduces inflammation, redness, swelling, warmth and pain (NSAID)

Antipyretics – This category of drugs reduces fever

API – Active pharmaceutical ingredient

Aspirin – One of the oldest OTC pain relievers on the market, it works by slowing down the body’s production of a pain-causing substance called “prostaglandin”

Brand Name Drug – A brand name drug sold with a trademark-protected name

Buffered – A pain reliever that contains an antacid to reduce the amount of acid in your stomach

Diuretic – Drug that causes increased urination

DXM – Dextromethorphan; an over-the-counter cough suppressant found in cold medications (and a drug often abused by teens)

Dose (dosage) – The amount of medicine to take

Drug – A substance for treatment, or prevention, of disease; intended to affect the structure or a function of the body

Drug Facts Label – OTC drugs are required to have this label on the product package so that consumers can easily find the product information. Components of the label include:

Active ingredient – Drug(s) the medicine contains

Directions – How much to take, when to take

Inactive ingredients – What is in the medicine in addition to the drug

Purposes – What the drug is for

Uses – What problems the drug can treat

Warnings – Who should not take the medicine; problems to watch for

Drug Interactions – When one drug interacts with another it changes the way one or both of the drugs work in the body and can cause unexpected, and sometimes dangerous, side effects

DUI – Driving under the influence

DUID – Driving under the influence of drugs

DWI – Driving while impaired

Emetic – Drug that causes vomiting

Enteric-coated – A special coating allows pills to pass undigested through your stomach and dissolve in your small intestine, which helps prevent or reduce stomach irritation

Excipient – The active ingredient in a drug is suspended in this inactive ingredient

Extra-strength Drugs – Drugs that contain more active ingredient than regular-strength products do

FDA – Food and Drug Administration; the federal agency that is responsible for assuring the safety and effectiveness of drugs

Generic Drug – A drug that is the same as a brand name drug in dosage, safety, strength, how it is taken, quality, performance, and intended use

GRAS/E – Generally recognized as safe and effective

Hepatotoxicity – Toxic to the liver, liver poisoning

Ibuprofen – A common non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID), it works by blocking the production of substances in the body that cause pain and inflammation

Legend Drug – Another name for a prescription drug

Medicine – See *Drug*

Naproxen Sodium – A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that works by blocking the production of substances in the body that cause pain and inflammation

NSAID – Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, such as aspirin or ibuprofen

OTC – Over-the-counter, medicines that are sold without a prescription from a health care professional

Pharmacy – Drugstore

Prescription Drug Product – A licensed drug product that requires a doctor's authorization and prescription to purchase

Reye's Syndrome – Serious disorder affecting children after a viral infection; associated with aspirin

Robotripping – A slang term for the abuse of cough syrup

Rx – Indicates a prescription drug

Side Effects – Unwanted or unexpected effects from a medicine

Skittling – A slang term for the abuse of cough syrup and cold medicine

Strength – How much of the active ingredient is present in each dose

Timed-release – Also called extended-release or sustained-release, these drugs dissolve slowly over time, allowing the active ingredient to work over many hours