



**LifeSmarts**  
*Learn it. Live it.*

## CONTENT VOCABULARY: HEALTH & SAFETY

### Medicine 101

**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

**Antipyretics** – This category of drugs reduces fever

**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** – 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:

**DUID** – Driving under the influence of drugs

**DWI** – Driving while impaired

**Emetic** – Drug that causes vomiting

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

**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

**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** – 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

**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