

Responsible Use of Prescription & OTC Drugs - Answer Key

Question	Answer	Talking Points
#1: Need a note to get	Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some OTC drugs are kept behind the pharmacy counter, but they do not need a prescription
#2: Buy at Acme, Gas Stations, or Convenience Stores	OTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OTC drugs can be bought from many different stores, prescriptions can only be <i>legally</i> purchased from a pharmacy (some of these stores have a pharmacy in them)
#3: Read and Follow Directions	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell you how to use them properly
#4: Dangerous if not used correctly	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some students think OTC is safer because it does not require a prescription; can be just as dangerous if misused
#5: One bottle can be used by more than one person	OTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If my friend has a headache I can give them some of my Advil, but not some of my prescription migraine medication
#6: Label has your name on it	Prescription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name is the only person that should be using medication
#7: Label includes the inactive ingredients	OTC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inactive ingredients replace questions the doctor asks about allergies in an appointment; check inactive ingredients to avoid adverse reactions
#8: Label includes warnings	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What to avoid when taking the medication; what could cause problems Important to avoid adverse reactions with other medications already taking
#9: Label includes a description	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OTC bottle has picture on the box Prescription has description on bottle - important that medication matches description to avoid mistakes made by person filling prescription
#10: Ask a pharmacist if you have questions	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions when picking up prescription or take OTC medication to counter to ask a question
#11: Ask a doctor if you have questions	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions during appointment or phone call/email