OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICINE SAFETY

UNDERSTANDING THE LABEL

The Drug Facts label helps you understand the medicines that you take and how to take them safely. All medicines should be taken with the direct supervision of a parent or trusted adult.

ACTIVE INGREDIENTS

The ingredients in the medicine that make it work.

WARNINGS

Safety information, including side effects, the questions you should ask a doctor before taking the medicine, and which medicines to avoid using at the same time.

INACTIVE INGREDIENTS

Ingredients not intended to treat your symptoms (e.g., preservatives, flavorings).

OTHER INFORMATION

How to store the medicine.

USAGES

Describes the symptoms that the medicine treats.

DIRECTIONS

Indicates the amount or dose of medicine to take, how often to take it, and how much you can take in one day.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

Call the company if you have questions about a specific medicine.

MEASURE IT CORRECTLY

To get an exact measurement, it is important to only use the dosing device that is provided with the medicine. The Drug Facts label tells you how much medicine you should take based on your weight and/or age. Take only one medicine with the same kind of active ingredient at a time.

FACT:

Household spoons come in various shapes and sizes, which means they hold different amounts of liquid.

ASK FOR HELP

Always talk with a parent or trusted adult to learn more about the responsible use of all medicines. Other resources include doctors, nurses, and pharmacists as well as your local poison control center.

Did you know?

Poison control centers are staffed with experts, including doctors, nurses, and pharmacists who can help answer questions about medicines or can provide help over the phone if you come in contact with a poison. Calls are free and private.

In 2016, America’s poison control centers managed about 630,000 medicine exposure cases involving children, tweens, and teens. 1

Poison Help

1-800-222-1222