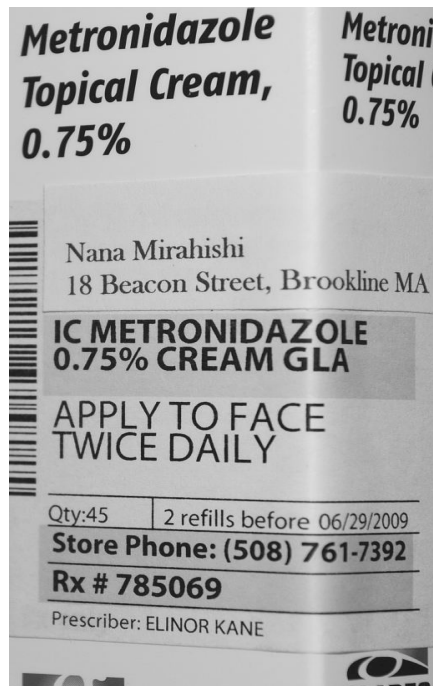


UNDERSTANDING MEDICATIONS

When you don't feel well, medicines can you get better. But sometimes medications can hurt if you don't take them according to instructions from your doctor. All prescription medications have a label, always review the following information:



Medication Name
Presentation
Concentration

Your Name
Your Address

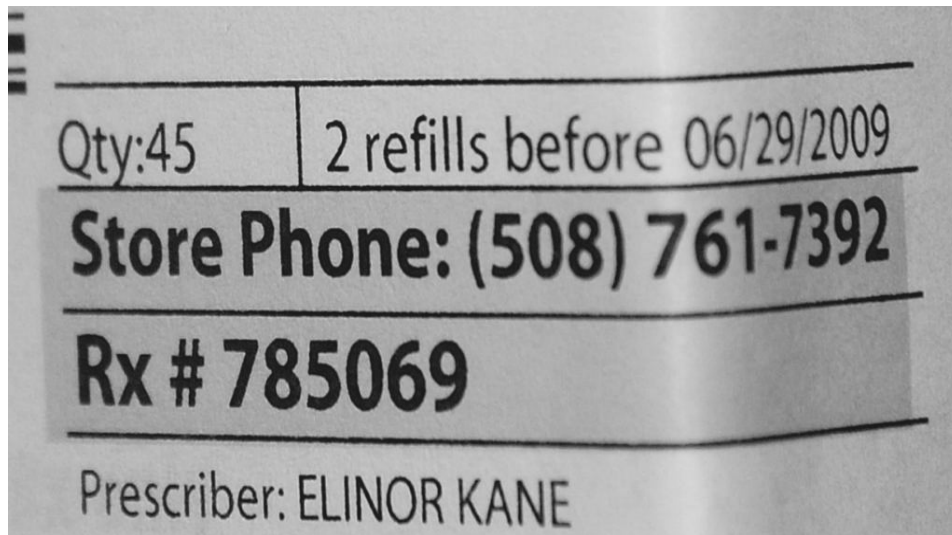
Administration
Instructions

Pharmacy
Information

Always check that the pharmacist gives you the **right medication**. Check that the **name of the medication**, and the **dose** that you need to administer matches the information on the doctor's instructions. Your **name** must be on the label.



The **phone number of the pharmacy** must be in the label in case you have any questions.



Do not give out medications if the medication label is soiled or hard to read. Always ask if you have a question or are not sure about a medication. Know the possible side effects and when these effects might happen.



When you buy medicine (especially over the counter medicine) make sure no one has already opened or tampered with it. At the pharmacy, check to see if the package was opened. If it was, tell a person working in the store and take another package. Never take someone else's prescription medicine. Keep all medicines away from children. A locked cabinet is best.

When you administer or take medications only pour the necessary amount from the bottle, or only the exact number of pills that you will need.



You also need to know what you should not have while taking your medicine. Some foods and drinks can make medicines work too fast, too slow or not at all. Some medicines may cause problems if you take them with other medicines. That is why it's important to tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking. And some medicines can cause problems, even if you take them correctly. **Call your doctor if you think the medicine is making you feel worse.**

If you are pregnant, protect yourself and your baby, as medicines may hurt her/him. If you need to take medications tell your doctor if you are pregnant, suspect that you are pregnant, or breastfeeding a baby.

Before you take any kind of medicine, make sure you know:

- What it is and why you should take it
- If the medicine could make you feel sleepy or cause some other problems
- When to take it
- That you have the right medication
- Make sure you know how to administer the medication
- The dose to be given

Before using any medicine, read the label and check the expiration date.

