## OVER-THE-COUNTER VS PRESCRIPTIVE MEDICINES

## **OVER-THE-COUNTER**

You can buy them without a prescription.

They're generalized drugs used to treat minor pains o aches.

They can be handed out to a friend or family with the same illness.

The pharmacist can explain you the doses and for how long you should take them. Treat a condition that doesn't require the direct supervision of a doctor.

Are formulated to have a safe and effective strength.

This kind of medication is priced competitively, so they're cheaper.

Almost never the FDA changes an overthe-counter drug to prescriptive.

May be taken with other OTC medications. Can be bought at a store, not only at a pharmacy.

PRESCRIPTIVE

You'll always need a prescription to buy them.

They're specific drugs for mayor illnesses or conditions.

It's intended for a specific patient and can't be legally shared with anyone.

The doctor specifies you for how long you have to take the medicine.

They generally treat more severe conditions that require the supervision of a doctor.

Are formulated to a therapeutic strength and the physician can provide an aggressive treatment.

This one is priced according to the drug's company's discretion, so they can be more expensive.

If the FDA approve they're safe they can be changed to over-the-counter.

EXAMPLES

If you have an infected toe nail you can buy some Fucidin; if the days pass and its worse you can go to a doctor and he'll prescribe you some oral Amoxicilin.

If you have a headache you can buy some Tylenol at the pharmacy; if the pain continues you'll probably have a migraine and the doctor will prescribe you Propanolol.

If you have a muscular pain you can buy some acetaminophen at the pharmacy; if the pain doesn't go away you'll go the doctor and he'll prescribe you Atercod, a combination between acetaminophen and codeine.

\* They have legal enforcement \* Covered by insurance plans \* Only bought at a pharmacy