

# Parts of the Medication Prescription Form

The individual sections on the prescription pad, stripped to its barest form, consist of the superscription, the inscription, the subscription, the signa, and the name of the prescriber written within the confines of a form. The date and patient information is followed by the superscription, which is followed by the inscription, then the subscription. Next follows the signatura.

Phone 255-3732	DEA# AC1273628	DEA Number
Eva Adams, M.D. 298 Appleby Street Eden, NY 14057		Prescriber Information
Name Laurel Hardy	Age 41	Patient Information
Address Abel St, Eden	Date 06/16/86	Date Prescription was Written
<i>R<sub>x</sub></i>	Phenobarbital 0.075 Pimelicone 0.020 Magnesium Carbonate 0.050 m. fl. 212	Inscription (Medication prescribed)
<i>Disp. 2 capsules tid and ho</i>		Signa (Directions for Patient)
Refill _____	<i>E. Adams</i> M.D.	
Special Instructions	<p>THIS PRESCRIPTION WILL BE FULFILLED ONLY USING            FANCLINEA TABLETS "da. or" IN THE BOX BELOW</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 50px; height: 30px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p>Dispense as written.</p>	

## The written prescription order's main parts:

1. The superscription which consists of the heading where the symbol Rx (an abbreviation for recipe, the Latin for take thou ) is found. The RX symbol comes before the inscription.
2. The inscription is also called the body of the prescription, and provides the names and quantities of the chief ingredients of the prescription. Also in the inscription you find the dose and dosage form, such as tablet, suspension, capsule, syrup.
3. The subscription, which gives specific directions for the pharmacist on how to compound the medication. These directions to the pharmacist are usually expressed in contracted Latin or may consist of a short sentence such as: "make a solution," "mix and place into 10 capsules," or "dispense 10 tablets." However, that was in the old days. Today... doctors just name the pill!
4. The signatura (also called sig, or transcription), gives instructions to the patient on how, how much, when, and how long the drug is to be taken. These instructions are preceded by the symbol "S" or "Sig." from the Latin, meaning "mark."

The signatura should always be written in English; however, physicians continue to insert Latin abbreviations, e.g. "1 cap t.i.d. pc," which the pharmacist translates into English when s/he prints the label, such as "take one capsule three times daily after meals". Read: Glossary of Pharmacology Terms and Symbols.

5. Below the signatura line is room for special instructions, such as the number of times the prescription may be refilled, if any. You will also find the purpose of the prescription, special instructions, warnings followed by the signature of the prescriber.