

# Applied Drug Therapy Guidelines for Grading Prescriptions

Teaching nurse practitioner students how to correctly write prescriptions is one of the major goals of this class. In order to be consistent in grading prescriptions, the following guidelines are presented. Refer to the prescription below:

<b>Primary Care Associates, Inc.</b> <b>Marcus Welby, MD</b> <b>1020 Wellness Road</b> <b>Resume Speed, KS</b> <b>(913) 123-4567</b>	
<b>Name</b> Patient's Name	<b>Date</b> Today's Date
<b>Address</b> Patient's Address	
<b>City/State/Zip</b> Patient's City/State/Zip	<b>Age/Wt</b> /
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 80%;"> <p><b>L</b>            Atenolol 25 mg tabs  Disp: #30  Sig: Take one tablet daily for high blood pressure</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: right; padding-top: 20px;"> NP's signature, ARNP </div> </div>	
Dispense as Written	Substitution Permitted
Refills	DEA #

## General Information

All prescriptions are to be graded on a 10 point scale. Use your judgement in awarding/subtracting points, but try to follow the guidelines listed below so that each students' prescriptions are graded as consistently as possible.

### Demographic Information:

Deduct ½ point if any of the following information is missing: Name, Date, Address, City/State/Zip

For pediatric patients, deduct ½ point each if the age and weight are missing.

### **Prescription Information:**

Deduct 3 points if the name of the drug is missing, or if the drug being prescribed is not an acceptable answer (this information will be given to you on the key)

Deduct 1 point if the dose of the medication is missing, or is obviously incorrect (if you have questions regarding doses, contact me)

If the drug is to be dispensed as a liquid (e.g., Amoxicillin suspension, Albuterol syrup), this must be stated, along with the concentration of the liquid (e.g., 125 mg/5 ml, 2 mg/ml, etc). Deduct 1 point if this is missing.

Deduct 1 point for if the quantity to be dispensed is missing, or is inappropriate for the duration of therapy:

### **Hints:**

If a tablet is to be taken bid for 10 days, 20 tablets should be prescribed. This is only important if the duration of therapy is specified in the sig (see below)

If an antibiotic suspension is to be given is 4 ml tid x 7 days, the volume to be dispensed should be 4 ml x 3 times a day = 12 ml x 7 days = 84 ml, PLUS some extra to arrive at a nice round number (e.g. 100 ml). In general, the volume which should be optimally prescribed will be given to you in the key. You need to deduct points only if the volume prescribed is way off the mark.

**Sig:** The directions should include the dose (or number of tablets to be taken), and the frequency at which they should be taken. Deduct 1 point if this is missing.

For antibiotics: The duration of therapy should also be listed (e.g., 3, days, 5 days, etc). - Deduct ½ point if this is missing

It is very helpful to the pharmacist (and to the patient!) if the indication for the drug is listed on the prescription. Unless the student lists a reason why this info is not on the prescription (e.g., it's for an STD, etc), deduct ½ point if it is missing.

### **Signature**

The NP's signature, followed by the initials "ARNP" must appear on the prescription. Deduct 1 point if the signature is missing and ½ point if the initials are missing.

For virtually all prescriptions, the signature should appear on the "Substitution Permitted" line. The student must have a compelling reason why the signature was placed on the "Dispense as Written" line. Typically, the rare exception will be made evident to you in the key.

**Other:**

Deduct 1 point if the overall prescription is illegible or otherwise confusing.