

Chapter 21 *Building Health Skills*

Using Medicines Correctly (pp. 564–565)

For medicines to be safe and effective, you must use them according to their directions. Suppose that your doctor has prescribed an antibiotic to treat your strep throat. Use the information on the medicine label below and from your book to answer the questions that follow.

Esparza's Pharmacy PH (800)555-5555
 180 Woodward Drive
 St. Charles, MO
 0060023-08292

DR. C. Chin
 DATE 05/14/07

JOHN SMITH
 123 MAIN ST ANYTOWN, US 11111
TAKE ONE CAPSULE BY MOUTH THREE TIMES DAILY FOR 10 DAYS UNTIL ALL TAKEN

AMOXICILLIN 500 MG CAPSULES
 QTY 30 MFC Drug Maker, Inc.

NO REFILLS – DR. AUTHORIZATION REQUIRED
USE BEFORE 05/14/08

Take medication on an empty stomach three hours before or two hours after a meal unless otherwise directed by your doctor.

CALL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY IF YOU EXPERIENCE SEVERE VOMITING, DIARRHEA, OR A SKIN RASH

A The name and strength of the medicine

B The number of pills or capsules provided

C Directions for how much medicine you should take (the dosage) and how often you should take it

D The expiration (or "use before") date

E Special warnings or precautions

F Warnings about side effects

1. Read all the information on the label and follow the directions.

a. What is the name of this antibiotic? What is the strength?

b. For how long should you continue taking this antibiotic?

c. If you forget to take a dose of medicine, what should you do?

2. Only take medicines prescribed for you.

Why should you not use medicines prescribed for someone else?

Using Medicines Correctly *(continued)*

3. Call your doctor if a medicine causes serious side effects.

What are some possible side effects of this medicine?

4. Never combine medicines without checking with your doctor.

Why might you take more than one medicine at the same time?

5. Never drink alcohol while taking medicines.

Why is it important to avoid alcohol while taking medicines?

6. Store medicines according to the label's instructions.

a. Why should you store a medicine in its original container?

b. When should you get rid of medicines?

c. Why should you be careful to dispose of medicines properly?
