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GENERAL PRESCRIPTION

**MANUAL FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS
OF PHARMACEUTICAL AND MEDICAL SPECIALITIES,
TEACHERS, DOCTORS AND PHARMACISTS
(BASED ON THE CREDIT-MODULE SYSTEM)**

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF UKRAINE
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF PHARMACY



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Manual for foreign students of pharmaceutical
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This manual provides information about the prescription, its structure and rules of registration, information about the medicinal and cosmetic forms, including the most modern ones; it sets out the rules of their prescribing.

The manual is prepared in accordance with the standards of higher pharmaceutical and medical education, taking into account the requirements of the credit-module system of the educational process organization. It is intended for the students of pharmaceutical and medical specialities, teachers, doctors and pharmacists.

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INTRODUCTION

What does the art of medical treatment begin with? It begins with the ability to prescribe medicines and write out prescriptions! What determines the skills of a pharmacist? It is the ability to read a prescription, prepare and give medicines to a patient. It is true for more than one hundred years. Today it is still relevant. The link between a doctor and a pharmacist, a medical institution and a pharmacy was, is and probably will be the prescription of a drug.

The obligatory prescription and dispensing of medicines in accordance with modern requirements and observance of legislation norms are with a great respect to the patient, the corporate culture in medicine and pharmacy, one of main criteria of professionalism, high competence and authority of specialists of these two industries. The amount of medicines at the pharmaceutical market grows every year. Today ten thousands of medicines and hundreds of medicinal forms are registered in every country. At the same time alarming rates of uncontrolled use of medicines grow and, as a result, the frequency of undesirable side effects of them increases.

An important aspect in determining the rational use of medicines is a subdivision of medicines by prescription of a doctor's and OTC drugs, i.e. sold without the doctor's prescription. The last ones are 39 % of all registered medicines, while the prescription medicines are 60 % of all medicines. It means that practically every second drug must be prescribed by a doctor, a pharmacist must dispense it, and if it is necessary compound the drug extemporaneously at the chemist's shop using the individual medical formulation. The health and patient's quality of life are in the hands of two specialists: a doctor and a pharmacist, and they have to be responsible for their actions. The state controls this process strictly.

Traditionally the course of pharmacology in pharmaceutical and medical higher schools begins with the study of writing out a prescription. The knowledge of this part of pharmacology accompanies students to the end of their study at the university and is controlled at the stage of the state attestation. The prescription writing out is an important practical skill, a necessary component in diagnosis of professional competence of a doctor and a pharmacist.

The present edition is to help students in mastering of writing out a prescription, and will become a guide for specialists who want to improve their knowledge and skills in honour of patients' health.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Prescription is one of the science divisions about medicines.

Medical prescription explains the rules of prescribing medicines and ways of their administration.

Medicinal raw material is the substance of the plant, mineral, animal, bacterial, fungal origin or chemical synthesis, of which drugs are manufactured.

A medicinal substance is an individual pharmacological substance approved for application.

A pharmacological substance is an individual substance with the pharmacological activity under research.

A pharmacological agent (remedy) is a pharmacological substance or its combination in a definite medicinal form under research.

Other names of medicines are a pharmaceutical agent, physiologically, biochemically and pharmacologically active substance. These names are lame or unpractical synonyms for the word «medicine».

A medicine (drug, medication, remedy, medicinal agent) is a pharmacological agent in a definite medicinal form approved for application with the purpose of treatment, prophylaxis and diagnostics of diseases.

A medicinal form is the form of a medicine, which is convenient for use, appropriate for the aims of therapy and provides the required effect. Due to its consistency (depending on the forming material) medicinal forms can be divided into solid, soft and liquid.

Medicinal forms that are made at the chemist's shop (prepared by a pharmacist) in accordance with the doctor's prescription are called *magistral*, or those manufactured by pharmaceutical industry that are called *officinal*.

Medicinal forms can be *dosed*, or *divided* into separate intakes (powders for internal use, capsules, tablets, solutions for injections, etc.) and *undosed*, or *undivided* (ointments, powders for external use, pastes, etc.).