

Types of Medication



Medication Type	What Will the Medication Look Like?	Common Examples
<p>Over-the-counter (nonprescription): Medication that you can get without an order from a licensed authorized prescriber.</p>	<p>Over-the-counter medications all look different. The instructions for use on the label are not specific to the child.</p> <p>Food/nutrition products, lotion, lip balm, medicated bandages, topical ointments, sunscreen, insect repellent and Vaseline® are not considered medication.</p>	<p>Tylenol®, Dimetapp®, Motrin®, ibuprofen, Benadryl®, homeopathic treatments</p>
<p>Prescription: Medication that needs an order by a licensed authorized prescriber to get medicine from the pharmacy.</p>	<p>All prescription medication comes in a container/bottle with a pharmacy label. The pharmacy label will be for a specific child and will have instructions for giving the medication.</p>	<p>amoxicillin, albuterol, EpiPen®, Ritalin®, Cortisporin Otic®, Augmentin®</p>
<p>Controlled Substances: Medication designated as having a high potential for misuse, which are regulated by the federal government.</p>	<p>Controlled substances will have a label on the medication container that tells you it is a controlled substance. The label is usually bright orange or yellow and will have the words “controlled substance” written on it.</p>	<p>Ritalin® and Focalin®</p>
<p>Brand name: The name given to the medication by the pharmaceutical company that created it.</p>	<p>The medication name on the label will have the symbol ® after it to identify it as a registered trademark.</p>	<p>Tylenol®, Motrin®, Cipro®, Benadryl®, Ventolin®</p>
<p>Generic name: The name of the active ingredient in the medication.</p>	<p>The medication name on the label will be listed as the “active ingredient.”</p>	<p>amoxicillin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, diphenhydramine, albuterol</p>

Example of the Difference Between a Medication’s Brand Name and Its Generic Name

Tylenol® is a brand name medication. The active ingredient in Tylenol® is acetaminophen. If you buy a medication named “acetaminophen” in the store, you are buying a generic medication. Both the generic and brand name medications have the same active ingredient (acetaminophen), but may be slightly different from one another because of the inactive ingredients. **See diagram.**

