

Unit: Medication Safety

Objective

Ps will identify how the improper use of medication can be dangerous and how to keep medication use safe.

Materials

- **Large flashcards – different kinds of medication**
- **Large flashcards – sick man**
- **Large flashcards – man takes wrong dosage**
- **Prescription Label**
- **Warning Labels**
- **Warning Label Cards**
- **Dos and Don't's for Beginners**

Step 1 Warm Up (5 minutes)

What is Medication Safety:

- Hold up the large flashcards of different medications. Ask “What is this?” Can they identify the different types of medication?
- Ask who is taking medication. (they can chose not to share this information)
- Ask “Is medication good?” (yes it can be very helpful)
- Can medication be dangerous? (yes it can be)
- Say today we will be discussing medication safety –ask if they know what medication safety is.

Step 2 Work out (40 minutes)

Learning about Medication Safety:

- Put the students into 2 groups. If it is a very large group, just have a few students be the spokespeople for the rest. Hand out **Large Flashcards – man takes wrong dosage** to one of the groups and **Large Flashcards – sick man** to another group and have them tell the story they see to the rest of the class. (see the **Medication Safety Lesson Plan Foundation level** to see the sentences that go with the stories or make up your own.)
- Ask what is the problem in the **Large Flashcards- man takes wrong dosage** story? (he just guesses amount to take)
- Ask why is **the sick man** story different? (talks to pharmacist)

- Ask them what a prescription label is? Can they read and understand? Hand out the **Prescription Label** – discuss all parts of the label. Pay special attention to the instructions and the warning label.
- Hand out Prescription Labels and in pairs have Ps answer the questions regarding the labels
- Hand out the **Warning Label** sheet – go over what warning labels are.
- Talk about the difference between the instructions on the label and the warning labels.
- Point out how the warnings can be difficult to understand. Read them together. What do they mean? Explain that there are many other warning labels not listed today, many more that they may not understand.
- Hand out a **Warning Label Card** to different Ps in the class. (these should be cut into 6 different cards) Have each Ps take turns reading their card aloud. Discuss what each one means. Do they see how difficult such warnings can be to understand?
- Ask them about their own prescriptions. Do they read their instructions? Do they understand them? Do they ask for help if they don't understand them? Who do they ask? Write all their responses on the board.
- Hand out the **Do's and Don'ts sheet** and go over it with them step by step.

Step 3 Cool Down (10 minutes)

Check their progress

- Ask them why medication can be dangerous.
- Ask them what they could do to protect themselves from misusing medications. (talk to pharmacist, talk to doctor, ask family member that speaks good English.)
- Will they do anything different from now on?
- What would they tell their friends about what they learned today?