Warning Labels

Sometimes a sticker is added to a prescription label, or a warning is printed next to the label.

For example, this warning says, "Do not take this drug if you become pregnant".

This warning says, "Do not take other medicines without checking with your doctor or pharmacist".

There are many kinds of warning labels. Some labels tell where to keep medicine. For example:

Refrigerate

Store in cool, dry place

Keep out of reach of children.
Some labels tell how to take medicine. For example:

Shake well before using

Medication should be taken with plenty of water

Take this medication 1/2 hour before meals.

Some labels tell what to do when taking the medicine. For example:

It is important that you take or use this exactly as directed. Do not skip doses or discontinue use unless directed by your doctor.

You should avoid prolonged or excessive exposure to direct and/or artificial sunlight while taking this medicine.

This medication may upset your stomach. Take it with crackers, bread or a small meal.

Some labels tell what not to do when taking the medicine. For example:

Do not drink alcoholic beverages when taking this medication.

Do not drink milk or eat dairy products while taking this medication.

Not to be taken by mouth.
Some labels tell about possible side effects of the medicine. For example:

May cause drowsiness or dizziness

When taking this medicine the effectiveness of birth control pills is decreased. Use additional and/or alternate methods of birth control.

This drug may impair the ability to drive or operate machinery. Use care until you become familiar with its effects.

Read all the information on your prescription label. If you do not understand it, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

For more information about OTC medicine labels see OTC Labels.
For more information about prescription medicine labels see Prescription Labels.
For more information about the side effects of medicine see Side Effects.