Writing an Outpatient FP10 Prescription

Sections of the Prescription
- Top (patient details)
  - Patient name
  - Patient address
  - Patient age (in years and months if <5 years)
  - Patient date of birth
- Middle (medication details)
  - Drug prescription blank box
- Bottom (prescriber details)
  - Prescribers signature
  - Date
  - Prescribers name and address (usually pre-printed)

Filling in the drug prescription box
Divide into 3 lines:
1. **DRUG**: include strength (e.g. 40mg) and preparation (e.g. tablets)
2. **DOsing INSTRUCTIONS**: write patient-friendly dose in numbers (e.g. 1 tablet) followed by frequency in words (e.g. four times a day)
3. **QUANTITY**: write quantity to be dispensed in numbers (e.g. 28 tablets)

Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Dosing instructions</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Simvastatin 40mg tablets</td>
<td>1 tablet once a day at night</td>
<td>28 tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-codamol 8/500 tablets</td>
<td>2 tablets as required every 4-6 hours (maximum 8 tablets in 24 hours)</td>
<td>28 tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flucloxacinil 250mg capsules</td>
<td>2 capsules four times a day</td>
<td>20 capsules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clobetasone butyrate 0.05%</td>
<td>Apply thinly twice a day to affected area</td>
<td>30g tube</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ointment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beclometasone 100micrograms/puff inhaler</td>
<td>2 puffs twice a day</td>
<td>1 inhaler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamorphine 30mg (thirty mg)</td>
<td>60mg (sixty mg) by subcutaneous infusion over 24 hours</td>
<td>6 (six) ampoules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tips
- If you want anything extra to be on the drug label, write it in inverted commas e.g. ‘strong painkiller’
- Cross out any unused space in the prescription box
- Special cases
  - **PRN prescriptions**
    - Include the minimum dose interval and maximum total daily amount (e.g. DRUG: Tramadol. DOSE: 100mg. FREQUENCY: as required every 6 hours (maximum 400mg in 24 hours))
  - **Solutions**
    - Write the drug and concentration in the drug box and how many mls in the dose box (e.g. DRUG: Oramorph 5mg/5ml. DOSE: 5ml)
  - **Inhalers**
    - Write the inhaler and puff content in the drug box and how many puffs in the dose box (e.g. DRUG: Salbutamol 100 micrograms/puff. DOSE: 2 Puffs)
  - **Combined drugs**
    - Write the combination specifics in the drug box and how many tablets in the dose box (e.g. DRUG: Co-Codamol 8/500. DOSE: 2 Tablets)
  - **Controlled drug prescriptions**
    - Must be in handwriting
    - Include patient name and address
    - Strength must be spelled out as well as numeric (e.g. 1mg/10ml (one mg in ten ml))
    - Dose must be spelled out as well as numeric (e.g. 5 (five) mg)
    - Total quantity must be spelled out as well as numeric (e.g. 20 (twenty) tablets)
**Rules**

- Write in **black, capital letters**
- For doses less than 1 gram, write in milligrams and for doses less than 1 milligram, write in micrograms
- Use millilitres (ml), not cubic centimetres or cc
- Do not abbreviate:
  - Micrograms
  - Nanograms
  - Units
- Use **generic drug names** (not brand names), except for:
  - Inhalers
  - Insulin
  - Psychiatric drugs
  - Epilepsy drugs
  - Narrow therapeutic range drugs (Guys With Large Dongles Totally Make Perfect Internet Connections)
    - Gentamycin
    - Warfarin
    - Lithium
    - Digoxin
    - Theophylline
    - Methotrexate
    - Phenytoin
    - Insulin
    - Ciclosporin
- In these cases, write the generic name first then the brand name in brackets afterwards.