Reading Medication Labels

Alaena Ruth, Extension Educator

**Goal (learning objective)**

Youth will learn how to read, interpret, and identify all the parts of a medication label and insert.

**Supplies**

- Handout 1 - “Medication Label” - enough copies for group.
- Handout 2 - “Medication Insert” - enough copies for group.
- Handout 3 - “Medication Insert and Medication Label Parts” - enough copies for group.
- Handout 4 - “Guide to Reading Drug Labe; on Outside of Container” - enough copies for group.
- Handout 5 - “Medication Insert” - 1 copy - answer key for your reference
- Handout 6 - “Medication Label” - 1 copy - answer key for your reference
- Tape or glue sticks - enough for everyone to share
- Scissors - enough for everyone to share

**Pre-lesson preparation**

- Make photo copies of the above handouts.
- Review the materials.
- Practice the lesson.

**Lesson directions and outline**

Share the following information with the youth:

Many types of products have labels and it is important to read them before using the product. Using medication on animals is no different. It is crucial that you read a product and understand the label before using it on an animal.

There are many different parts to a medication label and finding each piece of information may be difficult. However, with some practice you can find each important part of the medication label you need.

**Conducting the activity (DO)**

1. Review with the youth Handout 4.
2. Review with the youth Handouts 1, 2, and 3. Youth will be matching parts to the appropriate spots on the Medication Label and Medication Insert.
3. Have youth carefully cut out the medication label parts out first (bottom of Handout 3). 
4. Have youth tape (or glue) medication label parts on Handout 1.
5. Have youth carefully cut out the medication insert parts (top of Handout 3).
6. Have youth tape (or glue) medication insert parts on Handout 2.
7. Once youth have finished both examples, discuss each part, use the answer key.

**What did we learn? (REFLECT)**

- Ask: What is something you learned from the medication label that you did not know before you read it?
- Ask: Why should you administer medication to an animal according to the practice label?
- Ask: What are reasons why it is important to read a label before administering any type of medication?
Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: How do you keep your animal safe by reading labels before administering medication to animals?
- Ask: How does following medication label information help you with Quality Assurance Practices? Why is that important?
- Ask: How can you apply what you learned when reading medicine labels on medicine that a doctor prescribes to you or a family member?

Resources


Medication Label

OMNIBIOTIC
(hydrocillin)

Directions for use: See package insert

Warning: The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food. Exceeding the highest recommended dosage level may result in antibiotic residues in meat or milk beyond the withdrawal time.

Store between 2° and 8° C (36° and 46° F).
Keep dry and away from light.

Net Contents: 100 ml
Distributed by
USA Animal Health, Inc.
**Medication Insert**

**OMNIBIOTIC**  
(Hydrocillin in Aqueous Suspension)

For use in Beef Cattle, Lactating and Non-Lactating Dairy  
Cattle, Swine and Sheep  
Read Entire Brochure Carefully  
Before Using This Product  
For Intramuscular Use Only

**Active Ingredients:** Omnibirotic is an effective antimicrobial preparation containing hydrocillin hydrochloride. Each ml of this suspension contains 200,000 units of hydrocillin hydrochloride in an aqueous base.

**Indications:** Cattle - bronchitis, foot rot, leptospirosis, mastitis, metritis, pneumonia, wound infections; Swine - erysipelas, pneumonia; Sheep - foot rot, pneumonia, mastitis; and other infections in these species caused by or associated with hydrocillin-susceptible organisms.

**Recommended Daily Dosage**  
The usual dose is 2 ml per 100 lb of body weight given once daily. Maximum dose is 15 ml/day.

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<thead>
<tr>
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Continue treatment for 1 to 2 days after symptoms disappear.

**Caution:** 1. Omnibirotic should be injected deep within the fleshy muscle of the neck or thigh. Do not inject this material in the hip or rump, subcutaneously, into a blood vessel, or near a major nerve because it may cause tissue damage. 2. If improvement does not occur within 48 hours, the diagnosis should be reconsidered and appropriate treatment initiated. 3. Treated animals should be closely observed for at least 30 minutes. Should a reaction occur, discontinue treatment and immediately administer epinephrine and antihistamines. 4. Omnibirotic must be stored between 2° and 8° C (36° to 46° F). Warm to room temperature and shake well before using. Keep refrigerated when not in use.

**Warning:** Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 48 hours (4 milkings) after the last treatment must not be used for food. The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food.

**How Supplied:** Omnibirotic is available in vials of 100 ml.
### Medication Insert Parts (10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species and Animal Class</th>
<th>Approved Uses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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### Medication Label Parts (7)

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</table>
Guide to Reading Drug Label on Outside of Container

**Active Ingredients:** Chemical name(s) of what is in the drug.

**Withholding/Withdrawal Times:** Withdrawal time is the period that must elapse after the last treatment and before processing (harvest/slaughter) of the animal for its meat or harvesting animal products (milk, eggs) for human consumption. It is the time it takes for the drug/chemical to be used up by the animal’s body after it has been administered (or the time it takes a drug/chemical to wear off). A residue is a substance that remains in an animal’s body tissues after the animal has been exposed to that substance. The substance can enter the animal’s body as a feed or water additive, as an injection or external treatment.*

**Cautions and Warnings:** Tells things to be cautious about when using the product. Examples: (a) Do not give to certain kinds of animals, (b) do not give too much, (c) pay attention to withholding times (see above).

**Storage:** Tells how the medication should be kept while not in actual use. Many medications may lose their potency when exposed to moisture, direct light, warm and/or freezing temperatures. Most also lose effectiveness with time. The label will indicate how the product should be stored to retain maximum strength.

**Quantity of Contents:** Tells how much is in the container. Usually in metric units [liquid measure: 1 fluid ounce = 29.6 milliliters (mL), 1 cubic centimeter (cc) = 1 milliliter (mL); dry measure: 1 pint = 551 milliliters (mL)].

**Lot Number:** (may also be referred to as serial number) A manufacturer’s reference number indicating the day or batch in which this product was made. These numbers are needed if the product is recalled.

**Date of Expiration:** Discard (do not use) drugs when this date is reached.

*Remember, you are responsible for everything your animal consumes even if it is an accident.*
Medication Insert

Name of Drug

OMNIBIOTIC
(Hydrocillin in Aqueous Suspension)

Active Ingredients

For use in Beef Cattle, Lactating and Non-Lactating Dairy Cattle, Swine and Sheep

Read Entire Brochure Carefully
Before Using This Product
For Intramuscular Use Only

Active Ingredients: Omnibiotic is an effective antimicrobial preparation containing hydrocillin hydrochloride. Each ml of this suspension contains 200,000 units of hydrocillin hydrochloride in an aqueous base.

Approved Uses

Indications: Cattle - bronchitis, foot rot, leptospirosis, mastitis, metritis, pneumonia, wound infections; Swine - erysipelas, pneumonia; Sheep - foot rot, pneumonia, mastitis; and other infections in these species caused by or associated with hydrocillin-susceptible organisms.

Recommended Daily Dosage

The usual dose is 2 ml per 100 lb of body weight given once daily. Maximum dose is 15 ml/day.

Dosage

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Continue treatment for 1 to 2 days after symptoms disappear.

Caution: 1. Omnibiotic should be injected deep within the fleshy muscle of the neck or thigh. Do not inject this material in the hip or rump, subcutaneously, into a blood vessel, or near a major nerve because it may cause tissue damage. 2. If improvement does not occur within 48 hours, the diagnosis should be reconsidered and appropriate treatment initiated. 3. Treated animals should be closely observed for at least 30 minutes. Should a reaction occur, discontinue treatment and immediately administer epinephrine and antihistamines. 4. Omnibiotic must be stored between 2° and 8° C (36° to 46° F). Warm to room temperature and shake well before using. Keep refrigerated when not in use.

Warning: Milk that has been taken from animals during treatment and for 48 hours (4 milkings) after the last treatment must not be used for food. The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food.

Sizes Available

How Supplied: Omnibiotic is available in vials of 100 ml.
Medication Label

**OMNIBIOTIC** (hydrocillin)

**Active Ingredients**

**Directions for use:** See package insert

**Cautions and Warnings**

**Warning:** The use of this drug must be discontinued for 30 days before treated animals are slaughtered for food. Exceeding the highest recommended dosage level may result in antibiotic residues in meat or milk beyond the withdrawal time.

**Store between 2° and 8° C (36° and 46° F).**

Keep dry and away from light.

**Net Contents:** 100 ml

Distributed by

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**Medication Insert**

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