** Medicine 101 Vocabulary**

**Acetaminophen:** common OTC relieves pain and fever, but does not reduce inflammation.

**Active Ingredient:** ingredient in a pharmaceutical drug that is biologically active.

**Analgesics:** From two Greek words “an” (without) and “algos” (pain), this group of drugs relieves pain

**Antacid:** preventing or correcting acidity, especially in the stomach.

**Antiperspirant:** Used to reduce or eliminate “underarm wetness”

**Aspirin:** a synthetic compound used medicinally to relieve mild or chronic pain and to reduce fever and inflammation

**Brand Name Drug:** Patented drug sold exclusively by the company that controls the patent

**Diuretic:** type of medicine that functions to help the body eliminate excess water

**Dextromethorphan (DXM):** An oral cough suppressant available without a prescription, but which is sometimes abused and results in “skittling”

**Dose:** a quantity of a medicine or drug taken or recommended to be taken at a particular time

**Driving Under the Influence of Drugs (DUID):** Driving unsafely because you have prescription or OTC drugs in your system, which can result in being arrested and charged with this violation

**Excipient:** an inactive substance that serves as the vehicle or medium for a drug or other active substance

**Food and Drug Administration (FDA):** This federal agency regulates the Drug Facts Label. Responsible to make sure drug manufacturing processes and the drugs themselves are safe and effective.

**Generic Drug:** Contains the same active ingredient, the same amount of active ingredient, and the same dose as the Brand name.

**Hepatotoxicity:** the medical term for liver poisoning

**Inactive Ingredients:** components of a drug product that do not increase or affect the therapeutic action of the active ingredient

**NSAID:** This abbreviation stands for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

**Over-the-Counter (OTC):** medicine you buy off-the-shelf without a doctor’s order

**Pharmacist:** A health care professional; this person is licensed to dispense prescription drugs

**Poison Control Center**: A toll-free telephone service, which provides emergency advice and response to poisoning

**Prescription:** medicine you purchase from a pharmacy with a health care professional’s order

**Pseudoephedrine:** An ingredients used to make “meth;” the sale of drugs containing this OTC substance is sometimes restricted.

**Rx:** These two letters indicate a prescription drug

**Side Effects:** a secondary, typically undesirable effect of a drug or medical treatment

**Skittling:** taking cold remedies in small pills that look like Skittles candy in order to get high

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