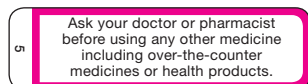


Label 5



Interactions between medicines can lead to therapeutic failure or adverse effects. These interactions may be pharmacodynamic in nature or caused by alterations in the absorption or the clearance of the medicine. The clinical significance of the interaction is likely to be greater for those medicines with narrow therapeutic indices (see '[Clinically important drug interactions](#)', Section D). Label 5 is used for medicines that are known to be involved in multiple interactions, usually via the inhibition of the metabolic clearance of a range of medicines. Certain complementary medicines (the term 'health products' is used here to encompass all products bought in pharmacies, supermarkets and health food outlets) can interact with other medications, and patients must be warned of this possibility when taking these products (see '[Complementary medicines](#)', Section C).

Pharmacists are advised to consult the *Australian Medicines Handbook* or the approved Product Information for more details.

Previously, this label was used to warn patients taking non-selective monoamine oxidase inhibitors about the dangers of ingesting certain foods: this warning is now included as additional instruction I (see '[Additional instructions](#)').

Label 6



Certain medicinal products require storage at temperatures between 2 °C and 8 °C to minimise decomposition. This can be achieved by storing in a household refrigerator.

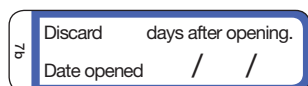
Note that for insulins the vial or cartridge in current use does not need to be stored under refrigeration. See also Label 7b.

Label 7a



or

Label 7b

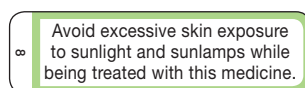


Some products have a limited shelf life due to chemical decomposition or the possibility of bacterial contamination. For example, the shelf life for eye preparations is 28 days after opening, unless a shorter time is dictated by instability or other considerations. For some products, the 'in use' shelf life can be greater than 28 days. Pharmacists should refer to the Product Information.

In use insulin vials or cartridges can be kept at room temperature (25 °C) for 28 days.

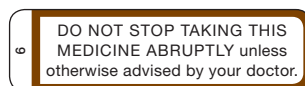
For individual extemporaneous products see '[General formulary](#)', Section A.

Label 8



Some medicines can cause a phototoxic or photo-allergic reaction in some patients exposed to sunlight or sunlamps. Patients receiving these medicines should be encouraged to minimise exposure to sunlight or sunlamps and should be counselled to use 30+ sunscreen agents and/or protective clothing to minimise potential problems of this type. Some cytotoxic medicines and immunosuppressive agents increase the incidence of some skin cancers, and patients prescribed these medicines should therefore avoid excessive sunlight or sunlamp exposure.

Label 9



The abrupt cessation of prolonged therapy with certain medicines has the potential to cause serious consequences: e.g. adverse effects following abrupt cessation of benzodiazepines, long-term oral corticosteroids and beta-blockers have been reported. Increased frequency and severity of seizures have been recorded following sudden withdrawal of anticonvulsant therapy.

Patients should be advised that this label does not override the need to consult the prescriber if adverse effects occur during treatment.

Pharmacists should not use this label where it clearly conflicts with the directions—e.g. prednisolone 25 mg, once daily for four days.