

<b>(A)</b> CARL NEWELL, M.D. 125 Main Street Hometown, VA 22958 (703) 555-0106		DEA# _____
<b>(B)</b> Connie Martin 789 Beach Tree Drive Hometown, VA 22958 D.O.B. 6/2/78	<b>(C)</b> Date: 11/14/20xx	
<b>(D)</b> $R_x$		
<b>(E)</b> Colace 100 mg Tablets #30		
<b>(F)</b> 1 tab PO qhs		
<b>(G)</b> Refills:   None   1   2 <b>(3)</b> 4		
<b>(H)</b> May substitute generic <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>(I)</b> _____ Signature
May not substitute generic <input type="checkbox"/>		

**FIGURE 5-1:** Sample prescription. A prescription has several parts: (A) name, address, telephone number, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) number of the prescriber; (B) patient's name, address, and date of birth; (C) date; (D) Rx (abbreviation for prescription or treatment); (E) inscription (name of drug, dosage, and quantity to be dispensed); (F) signature (directions to the patient); (G) number of refills; (H) whether a generic drug can be used; and (I) prescriber's signature.

writing prescriptions. For example, a prescriber may write "1 tab q4h prn." This Latin is not understood by most patients, so the pharmacist writes the following on the medication label: "Take one tablet by mouth every 4 hours as needed."

- **Subscription (refill).** The prescriber may specify how many refills are allowed before the patient must return to the office. Patients with chronic conditions may not return to the office for some time. For these patients, refill orders facilitate the continuity of care.
- **Physician's signature.** Prescriptions are not valid unless they are signed by the physician. Although the prescription may be completely written by the health-care professional (except for Schedule II drug prescriptions), the prescriber must sign the prescription.



#### CRITICAL THINKING

If most patients do not understand Latin, why do you think physicians write the signature in Latin?

If a patient calls for a refill, the prescriber may refill the prescription without asking to see the patient again, especially if the patient has a chronic condition or is taking birth control pills. After the refill has been approved, the health-care professional must document in the patient's medical record that the prescription was telephoned to the pharmacy.



#### CRITICAL THINKING

You work in a busy gynecologist's office. Many women run out of birth control pills before you can schedule them to come to the office. Create a protocol for refilling oral contraceptives without seeing the patient.