

FP10 Prescribing

Adapted from Charlotte Perchard's slides

THIS IS A GUIDE FOR NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WRITTEN SKILLS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO TEACH FOR USE IN CLINICAL PRACTISE – ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF WRITTEN EXAM PREPERATION.

What is this question?

FP10 prescriptions are those that are most often done in outpatient situations. They give information about the type of drug, as well as instructions for how to take. They are fairly quick to write, however you may find that because there is only limited space some people panic and make mistakes. Therefore, it is important to have a system for filling out FP10s.

Step 1: Fill out patient details

It's important that you double check this after you've written all this information, and then check once again when you've finished the question.

All the information needed should be given in the question stem, or at the front of question booklet.

Extra information for this question type:

- Age should be written in years for those patients aged 18 and over, below this you should write it in years and months

Step Two: Drug Prescription

Here you should be including:

- The name of the drug
- The type of preparation (capsule, tablet, oral suspension)
- The dose that you want, and the frequency (50 milligrams, three times a day) – do not abbreviate any of this. For controlled drugs, you would have to write the dose as both a number and a word (50, fifty) – however sometimes it is good to be on the safer side and write all numbers out in full in every question.
- How the dose should be taken (it is important to be as clear as possible ie. per oral should really be “by mouth”).
- Any other instructions – such as “until symptoms resolve”, “with a meal” etc.
- Supply – this is for the pharmacists, and it is you telling them how much they need to give the patient “Please supply 28 tablets”.
- Underneath all this, you should write “NO MORE ITEMS ON THIS PRESCRIPTION” to ensure that nothing is written underneath – as this would indicate that the prescription may have been amended by someone other than yourself.

Step 3: Sign, date, and address

Sign and date the prescription, and the full name of yourself and the practise should be included. This will be found in the question booklet

At this point it's important for you to go back and check your work.

Additional Information for this question

If you are unsure about what you are writing then there are two tips to make FP10's easier:

- Try and think about how you would explain to a patient verbally. It's unlikely that you would say "deploy inhaler QDS PRN for symptoms". Therefore this is inappropriate to write on an FP10. Instead something like "please take 1-2 puffs of inhaler, up to four times a day as required for symptomatic relief". This is very clear and should leave the patient with no questions.
- The BNF has an example FP10 at the beginning, and this can be used in case you are unsure of what order to write things in.