



reduce PRESCRIPTION ERRORS

Clearly written prescriptions help prevent misinterpretations that could lead to errors. It may require some additional time, but your patient's health is worth the effort.

- **Write legibly.**
- **Write the full name of the medication** – do not use abbreviations. This includes abbreviations such as “HCl,” which can sometimes be mistaken for “KCl.” Leave a space between the drug name and the strength/dosage, as well as the strength/dosage and the unit.

Instead of....	Write...
Tramadol100mg	Tramadol 100 mg
10mg	10 mg

- **Write out the strength and dosage of administration.** Avoid extraneous decimal points and “naked” decimal points (numbers less than 1 without “0” preceding the decimal point).

Instead of....	Write...
IU or U	units
Cc, CC or cc	mL
1.0 mg	1 mg
.5 mg	0.5 mg
μ or μg	mcg or microgram

- **Write out the route of administration**

Instead of....	Write...
OD, OS or OU	Right eye, left eye or both eyes
AD, AS or AU	Right ear, left ear or both ears
Per os, PO or po	By mouth
SC, SQ or sub q	Subcut or Subcutaneously
IV	Intravenous
IN	Intranasal
IM	Intramuscular

- **Write out the frequency of administration**

Instead of...	Write...
EOD or eod	Every other day
QD, SID, q1d or qd	Every 24 hours
BID	Every 12 hours
TID	Every 8 hours
QID	Every 6 hours

- **Write “Dispense as written” if alterations are unacceptable.**

For more information visit:
avma.org/PrescriptionGuidelines