

After a Visit to a Health Professional – Medications

Pre-Reading Discussion: Have you or a family member ever needed prescription medication? Where do you go to get the prescription filled? Prescription medications are also called drugs. What other substances are also called drugs?

This passage is about a woman named Gina who needs to get a prescription filled.

Gina knew something was not right. It felt like every five minutes she had to run to the ladies' room. When she went to the bathroom, it burned like mad. She went to the Urgent Care Clinic in her neighborhood. The doctor told her she had a UTI.

“What is that?” asked Gina.

“It’s an infection of the urinary tract. It should feel quite a bit better after you start taking antibiotics. Do you have any allergies to medications?”

“No,” said Gina.

“Is there a pharmacy you like to go to?” asked the doctor.

She gave him the name of a drug store a few blocks from her apartment. They had a pharmacy in the back.

“O.K.,” said the doctor. “We will call in your prescription for Trimox. You need to take one tablet

two times a day. Take them until they are all gone, even if you feel better.”

Gina could hardly wait to get to the pharmacy. The burning was getting worse. When her prescription was ready, the pharmacist came to the counter to talk to Gina.

“Your doctor called in a prescription for Trimox. That is a brand name drug. We also have the generic medication, amoxicillin. It’s the same thing, but it does not cost as much. Would you like the generic instead of the brand name?”

“Is it really as good?” asked Gina.

“It is exactly the same thing. It just has a different name, and it costs less,” the pharmacist told her.

“O.K., I’ll take the generic drug,” said Gina.

The pharmacist told Gina how to take the medication. She gave her a page with information about amoxicillin. Then she said, “Be sure to keep taking this until it is all gone. Don’t stop even if you feel way better after one or two doses.”

“The doctor told me the same thing,” said Gina.

The pharmacist smiled. “Good. I hope you are feeling better soon.”

“Thank you,” said Gina. “Me too!”

After a Visit to a Health Professional – Medications

Questions for Discussion:

Can you relate to Gina's experience?

Have you purchased generic medicines before? How about other generic ("no name brand") products?