Useful Background Information

- More important than knowing what the FDA does and how it operates is knowing how to use medical devices and drugs safely. Discussing how to interpret drug fact labels will improve students’ health literacy and teach them how to use over-the-counter medicine safely and correctly.

- The Food and Drug Administration is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that regulates food, drugs, medical devices, dietary supplements, blood products, biological medical products, cosmetics, radiation-emitting devices, and veterinary products in the United States.

- There are eight subdivisions within the FDA: The Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), the National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR), the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), and the Office of the Commissioner (OC). The Office of Device Evaluation (ODE) within the Center for Devices and Radiological Health regulates the approval of medical devices.

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The Veterinary Black Bag Program

Project Goals:
- Develop Veterinarian’s Black Bags (VBBs) of instructional items and pamphlets for middle school teachers to support classroom visits by local veterinarians.
- Provide professional development for veterinarians and teachers on how to use items in the VBBs.
- Promote inquiry-based thinking about health-related subjects while emphasizing the value of biomedical research and promoting careers in science.

The FDA and Your Teeth

Follow Up Lesson

Abstract

More important than knowing what the FDA does and how it operates is knowing how to use medical devices and drugs safely. Discussing how to interpret drug fact labels will improve students’ health literacy and teach them how to use over-the-counter medicine safely and correctly.

The Food and Drug Administration is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that regulates food, drugs, medical devices, dietary supplements, blood products, biological medical products, cosmetics, radiation-emitting devices, and veterinary products in the United States.

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The FDA and Your Teeth

The instruction in this module includes:
Presentation on Dental Health
Follow-up lessons on:
- Animal Teeth
- FDA and Your Teeth
- Bacteria and Dental Health
Summary of Lesson Content

Students will study the importance of the FDA’s role in dental health and in other areas of the students’ lives. Students will learn about the FDA, the kinds of dental health products the FDA regulates, and how to read the drug facts labels on over-the-counter drugs. After the Power Point Presentation, students will apply what they have learned by interpreting over-the-counter medicine labels.

Objectives

1. Describe the role of the FDA in human and animal medicine.
2. Learn how to read and interpret product labels on over-the-counter health products.

Assessment

The teacher will assess the students’ understanding by evaluating their responses on the worksheet. A pre-test and post-test are also available for use at http://www.fda.gov/medsinmyhome/ under the Teacher’s Room section.

Vocabulary

FDA: Food and Drug Administration, which is an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human services that regulates food, drugs, medical devices, and many other kinds of medical products in the United States.

Medical Device: An instrument, implant, apparatus, or other device that does not work primarily by chemical action and that is used for a medical purpose (to diagnose, treat, or prevent disease or to adapt the function or structure of the body).

Over-the-counter drug: A medication that may be purchased without a prescription.

Prescription Drug: A medication that requires a doctor’s prescription.

Drug Facts Label: The label on the back of all over-the-counter drugs that contains important information about that drug. The label is required by the FDA.