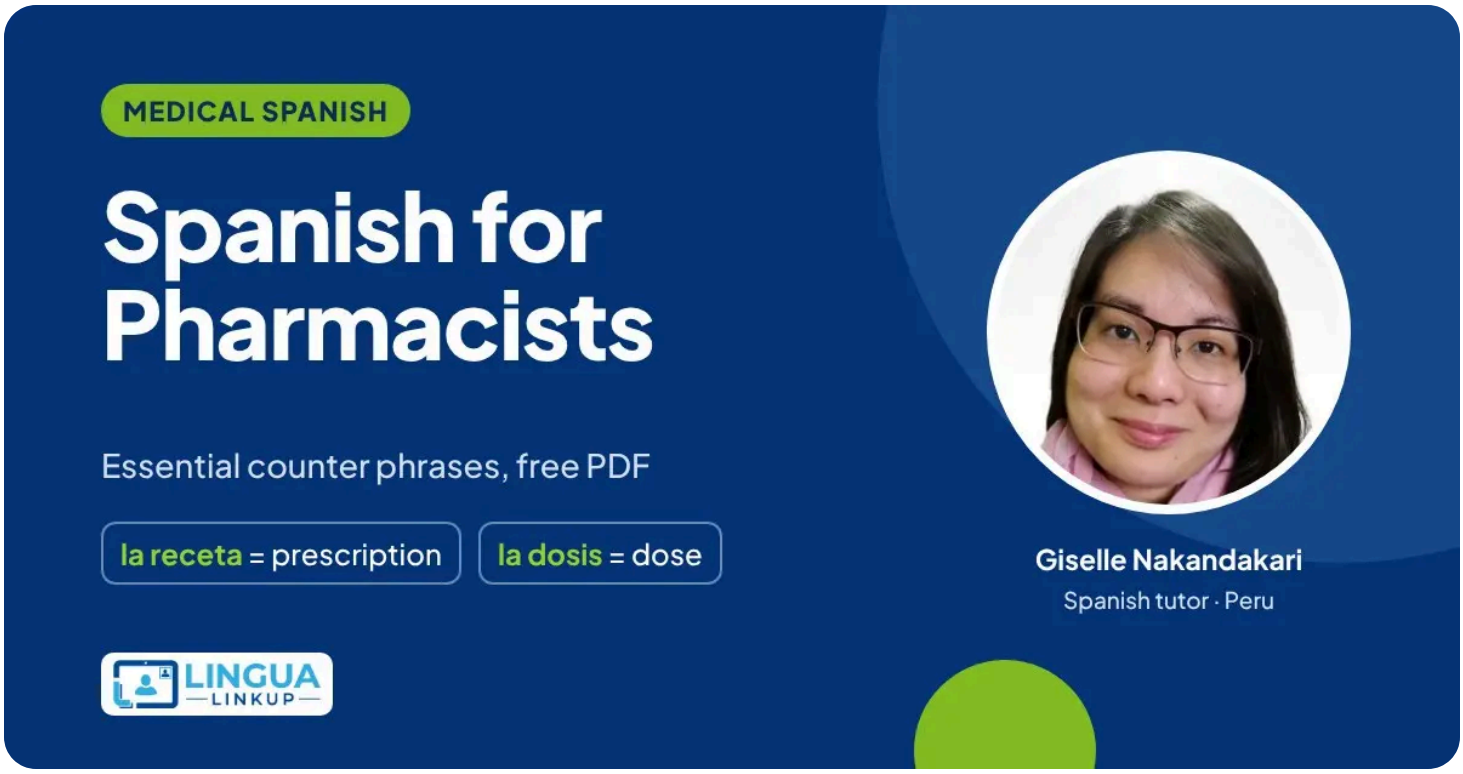
Essential Spanish for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Techs (Free PDF)

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Quick answer: The most useful Spanish phrases for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are **¿Viene a recoger o a dejar una receta?** (Are you picking up or dropping off a prescription?), **¿Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?** (What's your date of birth?), **Tome una pastilla dos veces al día con comida** (Take one pill twice a day with food), **¿Es alérgico/a a algún medicamento?** (Are you allergic to any medication?) and **Puede causar sueño** (It may cause drowsiness). This guide has 90+ phrases and terms

organized by what happens at the counter, with pronunciation help and a printable PDF.

A pharmacy counter is where patients get the instructions that keep them safe at home. Clear Spanish for dosing, timing and side effects cuts mistakes and repeat calls. Use these phrases for routine conversations, and a qualified interpreter or translated materials for detailed counseling and anything you can't confirm the patient understood.

At the counter: greeting and patient ID

Spanish	Say it	English
Buenos días. ¿En qué le puedo ayudar?	BWEH-nohs DEE-ahs. en keh leh PWEH-doh ah-yoo-DAR	Good morning. How can I help you?
¿Viene a recoger o a dejar una receta?	bee-EH-neh ah reh-koh-HER oh ah deh-HAR OO-nah reh-SEH-tah	Are you picking up or dropping off a prescription?
¿A nombre de quién?	ah NOHM-breh deh kee-EN	Under what name?
¿Cuál es su fecha de nacimiento?	kwahl es soo FEH-chah deh nah-see-mee-EN-toh	What's your date of birth?
¿Cuál es su dirección?	kwahl es soo dee-rek-SYOHN	What's your address?
¿Prefiere hablar con un intérprete?	preh-fee-EH-reh ah-BLAR kohn oon een-TER-preh-teh	Would you prefer to speak with an interpreter?

Prescriptions, refills and wait times

Spanish	Say it	English

la receta	lah reh-SEH-tah	prescription
el resurtido / la reposición	el reh-soor-TEE-doh / lah reh-poh-see-SYOHN	refill
Su receta va a estar lista en veinte minutos.	soo reh-SEH-tah bah ah es-TAR LEES-tah en BAYN-teh mee-NOO-tohs	Your prescription will be ready in 20 minutes.
No le quedan resurtidos. Necesitamos llamar a su médico.	noh leh KEH-dahn reh-soor-TEE-dohs. neh-seh-see-TAH-mohs yah-MAR ah soo MEH-dee-koh	You have no refills left. We need to call your doctor.
No tenemos este medicamento ahora. Llega mañana.	noh teh-NEH-mohs ES-teh meh-dee-kah-MEN-toh ah-OH-rah. YEH-gah mah-NYAH-nah	We don't have this medication right now. It arrives tomorrow.
¿Quiere la versión genérica?	kee-EH-reh lah ber-SYOHN heh-NEH-ree-kah	Would you like the generic version?

Insurance and payment

Spanish	Say it	English
¿Tiene seguro médico?	tee-EH-neh seh-GOO-roh MEH-dee-koh	Do you have health insurance?
¿Me permite su tarjeta del seguro?	meh per-MEE-teh soo tar-HEH-tah del seh-GOO-roh	May I see your insurance card?
el copago	el koh-PAH-goh	copay

Su seguro no cubre este medicamento.	soo seh-GOO-roh noh KOO-breh ES-teh meh-dee-kah-MEN-toh	Your insurance doesn't cover this medication.
Necesita una autorización previa.	neh-seh-SEE-tah OO-nah ow-toh-ree-sah-SYOHN PREH-bee-ah	It needs a prior authorization.
El total es de doce dólares.	el toh-TAHL es deh DOH-seh DOH-lah-res	The total is $12.

Dosage instructions

These are the phrases patients take home. Say them slowly, and point to the label as you go.

Spanish	English
Tome una pastilla / tableta / cápsula…	Take one pill / tablet / capsule…
…una vez al día / dos veces al día / tres veces al día	…once a day / twice a day / three times a day
…cada ocho horas / cada doce horas	…every 8 hours / every 12 hours
…por la mañana / por la noche / antes de dormir	…in the morning / at night / at bedtime
…con comida / con el estómago vacío	…with food / on an empty stomach
…con un vaso lleno de agua	…with a full glass of water
Tome cinco mililitros (una cucharadita).	Take 5 mL (one teaspoon).
Agite bien antes de usar.	Shake well before use.

Termine todo el tratamiento, aunque se sienta mejor.	Finish all of the treatment, even if you feel better.
No tome más de… al día.	Don't take more than… a day.
Si se le olvida una dosis, tómela en cuanto se acuerde.	If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember.
No tome dos dosis juntas.	Don't take two doses at once.

Watch out: the English word "once" means *one time*, but in Spanish **once means eleven**. Always write the number on the label and say *una vez al día*.

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Allergies, other medications and conditions

Spanish	English
¿Es alérgico / alérgica a algún medicamento?	Are you allergic to any medication?
¿Toma otros medicamentos, vitaminas o hierbas?	Do you take other medications, vitamins or herbs?
¿Está embarazada o amamantando?	Are you pregnant or breastfeeding?

¿Tiene diabetes, presión alta o problemas del riñón?	Do you have diabetes, high blood pressure or kidney problems?
¿Para quién es el medicamento? ¿Cuánto pesa el niño?	Who is the medication for? How much does the child weigh?

Side effects and warnings

Spanish	English
Puede causar sueño / mareo.	It may cause drowsiness / dizziness.
No maneje ni use maquinaria.	Don't drive or use machinery.
No tome alcohol con este medicamento.	Don't drink alcohol with this medication.
Puede causar malestar estomacal / náuseas / diarrea.	It may cause upset stomach / nausea / diarrhea.
Evite el sol.	Avoid the sun.
Si tiene sarpullido o dificultad para respirar, vaya a emergencias.	If you get a rash or trouble breathing, go to the emergency room.
Guárdelo en el refrigerador / a temperatura ambiente.	Keep it in the fridge / at room temperature.
Manténgalo fuera del alcance de los niños.	Keep out of reach of children.

Over-the-counter questions

Spanish	English
¿Qué síntomas tiene?	What symptoms do you have?

¿Desde cuándo?	Since when?
Para la tos / la gripe / la alergia, le recomiendo…	For a cough / the flu / allergies, I recommend…
Está en el pasillo cuatro.	It's in aisle four.
Si no mejora en tres días, vea a su médico.	If it doesn't get better in three days, see your doctor.
¿Quiere ponerse la vacuna contra la gripe hoy?	Would you like to get your flu shot today?

Pharmacy vocabulary list

English	Spanish	English	Spanish
pill	la pastilla	cream / ointment	la crema / la pomada
tablet	la tableta	drops	las gotas
capsule	la cápsula	inhaler	el inhalador
syrup	el jarabe	injection / shot	la inyección
dose	la dosis	vaccine	la vacuna
side effect	el efecto secundario	pain reliever	el analgésico
label	la etiqueta	antibiotic	el antibiótico
bottle	el frasco	blood pressure	la presión arterial
pharmacist	el / la farmacéutico/a	pharmacy tech	el / la técnico/a de farmacia

For more health vocabulary, see our medical Spanish glossary and 149 Spanish medical terms.

Medical Spanish training for pharmacy teams

Our medical Spanish training gives pharmacists, techs and front-counter staff live group lessons by role plus a self-study course on their phones, so they can practice counseling conversations between shifts. We can add custom lessons built from your own counseling scripts and patient handouts.

Frequently asked questions

How do you say “pharmacist” in Spanish?

El farmacéutico / la farmacéutica. A pharmacy technician is el / la técnico de farmacia, and the pharmacy is la farmacia.

How do you say “take one pill twice a day” in Spanish?

Tome una pastilla dos veces al día. Add con comida (with food) or con el estómago vacío (on an empty stomach) as needed.

Why is “once” dangerous on Spanish labels?

In Spanish, once means eleven. A label that says “take once daily” can be misread as eleven times a day, so write una vez al día and the number 1.

How do you say “prescription” and “refill” in Spanish?

La receta (prescription) and el resurtido or la reposición (refill).

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