Use, Misuse, and Abuse Handout

- **What is Use?**  
  When a person follows the directions provided by the physician for each prescription drug. Including not using any other person’s prescription.

- **What is Misuse?**  
  When a person does not take a prescription drug as directed or intended, either unknowingly or mistakenly. Misuse includes misreading the label, taking the wrong amount, unintentionally mixing medications that should not be taken together, using an expired medication, or unknowingly taking a medication that was prescribed for someone else.

- **What is Abuse?**  
  When someone purposely takes prescription medication in a manner or dosage other than what was prescribed for the purpose of experiencing a desired effect.