

[Diehl HS \(1933\)](#). Medicinal treatment of the common cold. JAMA 101:2042-2049.

Key passages

MEDICINAL TREATMENT OF THE COMMON COLD

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MINNEAPOLIS

The instructions to the pharmacist were to fill these "cold prescriptions" alternately with cold medication A and cold medication B. Cold medication A consisted of morphine sulphate in the following dosage: weight less than 100 pounds, (45.5 Kg.) $\frac{1}{8}$ grain (8 mg.) at bedtime; weight 100 to 149 pounds (45.5 to 67.6 Kg.) $\frac{1}{6}$ grain (10 mg.) at bedtime; weight 150 pounds (68 Kg.) or more, $\frac{1}{4}$ grain (16 mg.) at bedtime. Cold medication B consisted of lactose tablets of the same size, shape and color as the morphine tablets. The directions issued with the lactose tablets were the same as with the morphine. Two tablets were given on each prescription with the following directions: "Take one tablet, and only one, with water before retiring. If symptoms of cold are present the following evening, take the second tablet. Do not give either of these to any one else." No instructions were given in regard to diet, rest, hot baths, gargles and the like. The box containing the tablets was enclosed in an envelop in which was printed the instructions given in figure 1.