NEXTGEN MEDICATION MODULE DEMONSTRATION

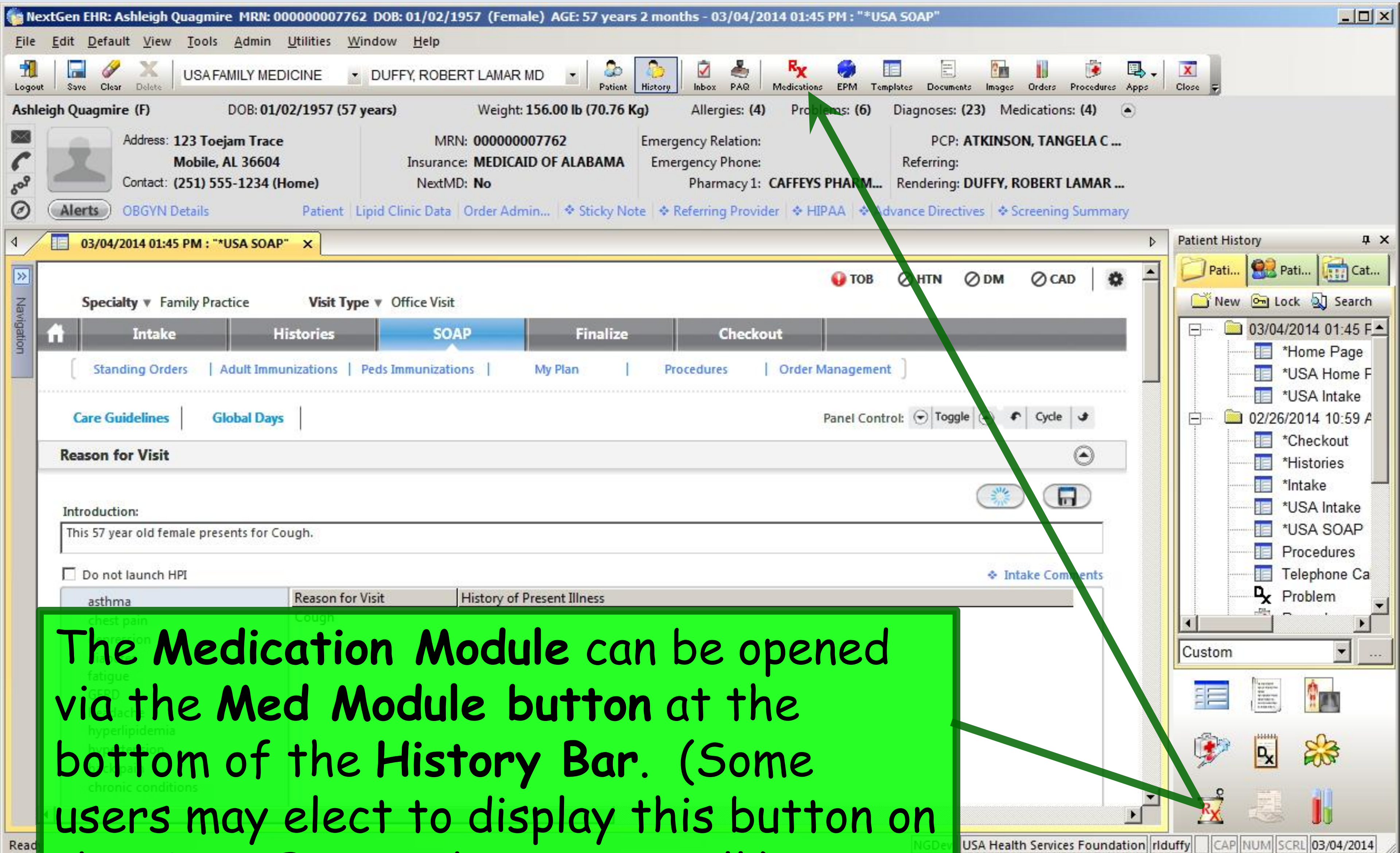
This demonstration reviews usage of the Medication Module, problem spots, & tips & tricks to work more efficiently.

This has been prepared for EHR 5.8 & KBM 8.3, though some screen shots from earlier versions may be used when they don't affect the clarity of the presentation. Subsequent updates may display cosmetic & functional changes.

Use the keyboard or mouse to pause, review, & resume as necessary.

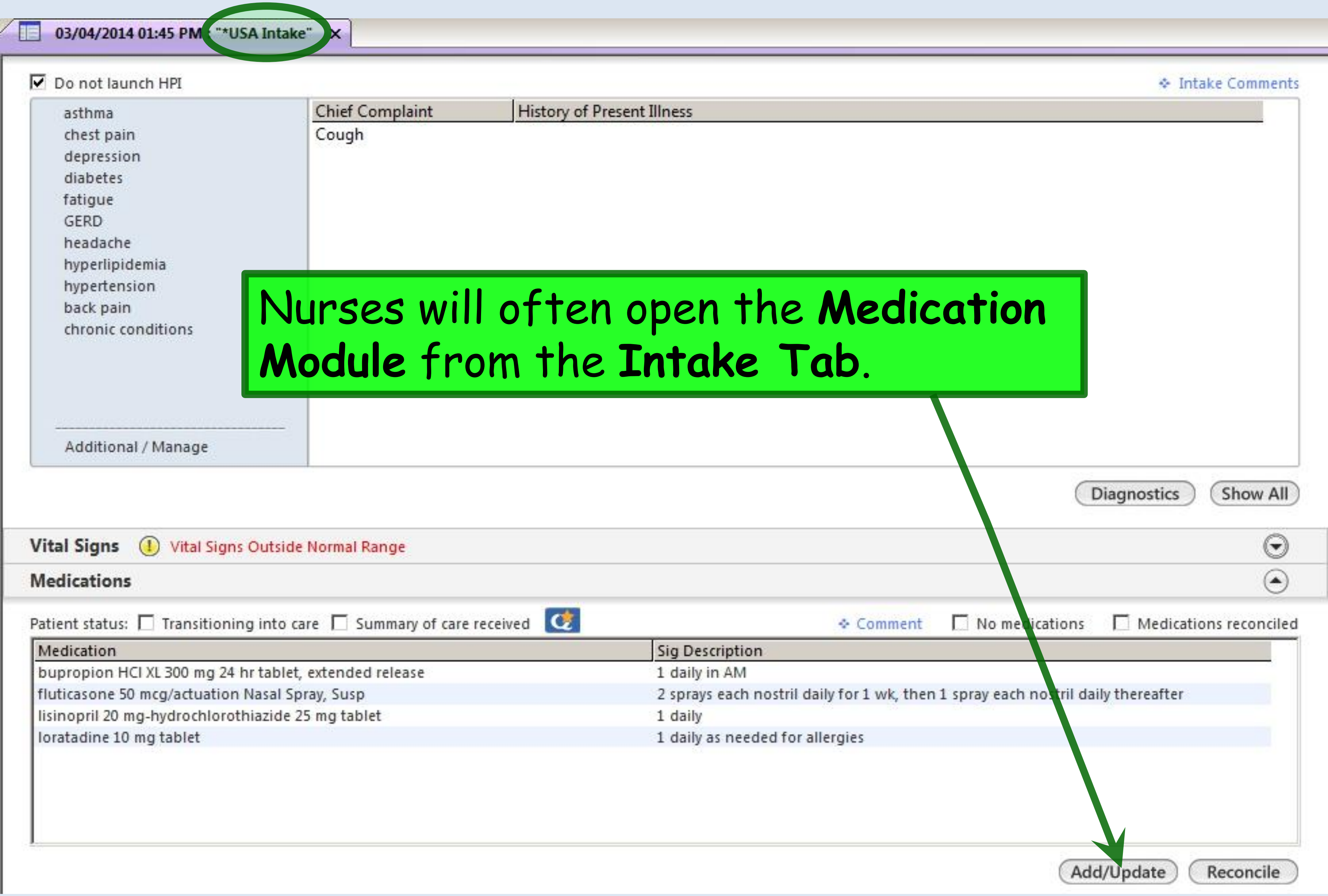
Before we get started…

- In practice, electronic prescribing (ERx) will be our primary method of dispensing medications.
- But ERx is not available in the TEST environment, & this affects the appearance of the Medication Module you may see in training.
- This lesson will demonstrate ERx as much as possible, but you will not be able to practice ERx until you are using the program live in the PRODUCTION environment.

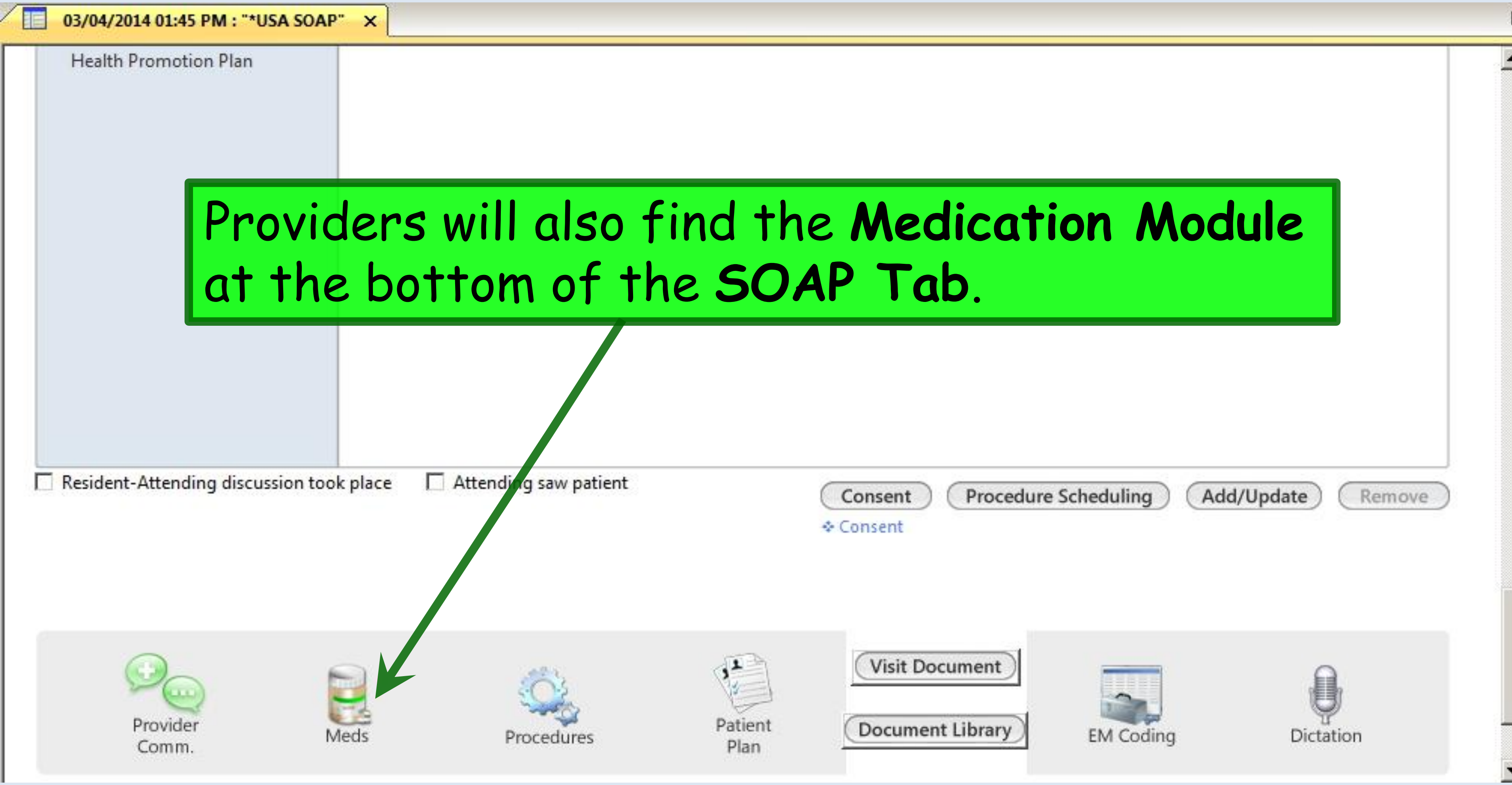


The **Medication Module** can be opened via the **Med Module button** at the bottom of the **History Bar**. (Some users may elect to display this button on the **Menu Bar** at the top as well.)

Nurses will often open the **Medication Module** from the **Intake Tab.**



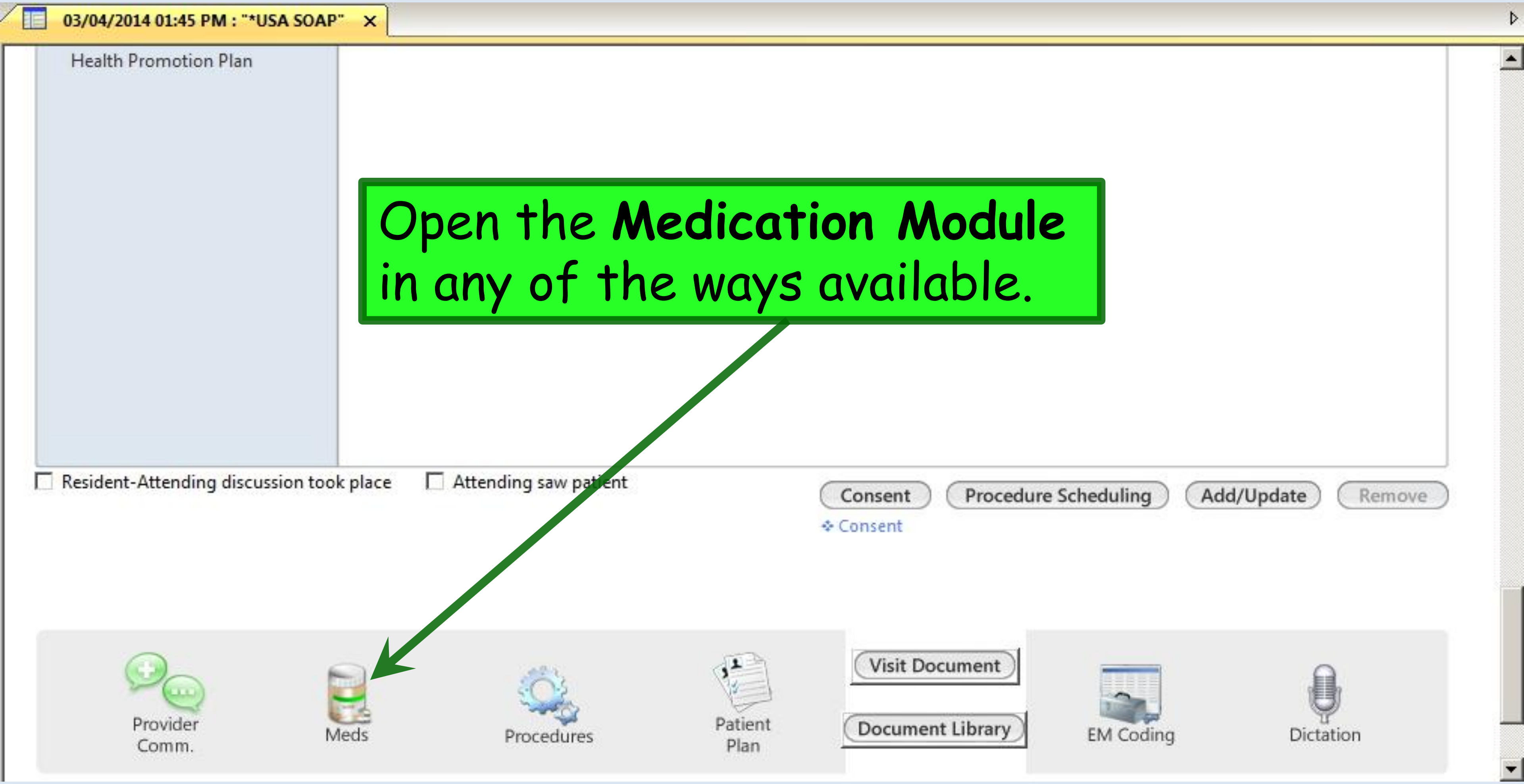
Providers will also find the **Medication Module** at the bottom of the **SOAP Tab**.



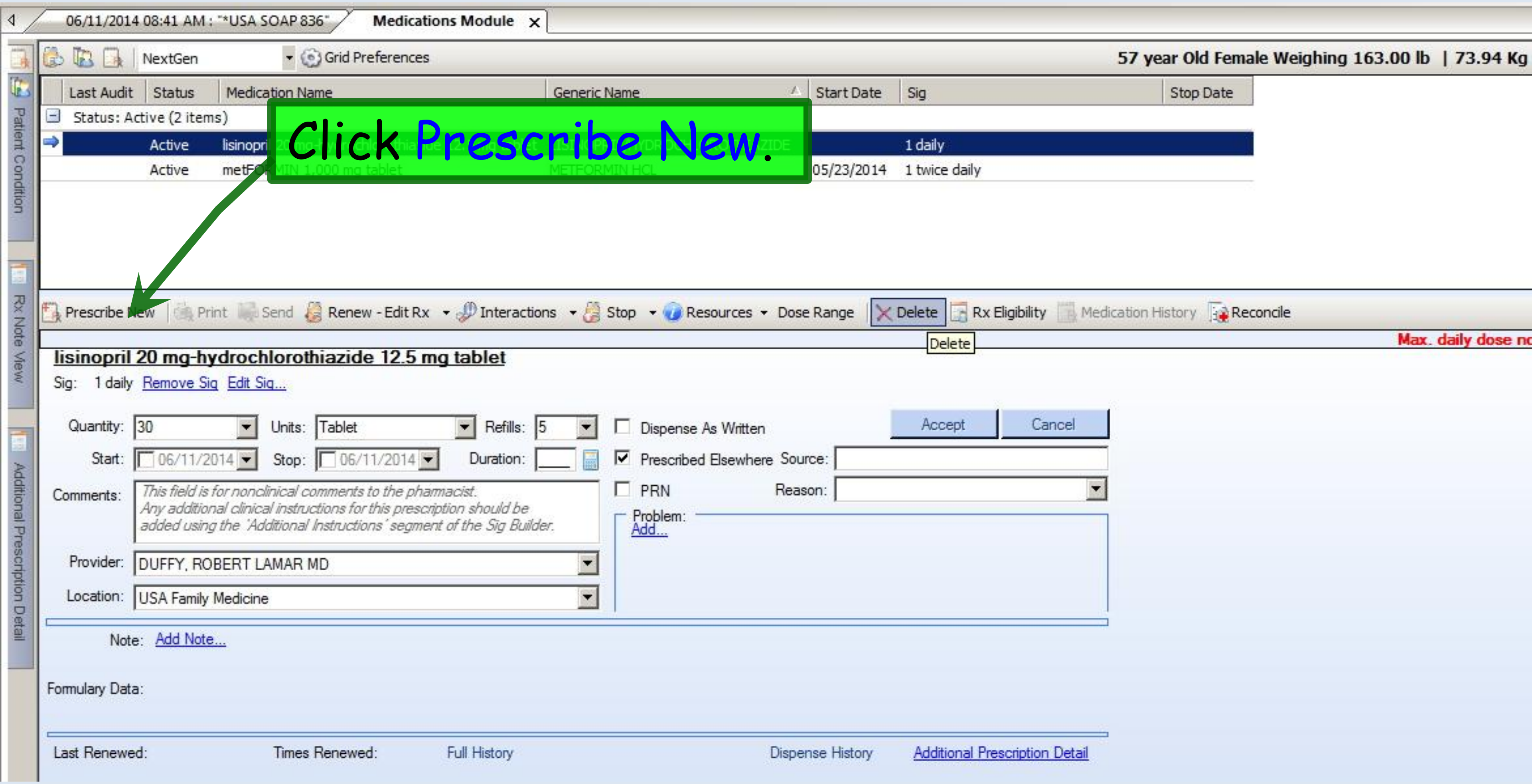
General Usage

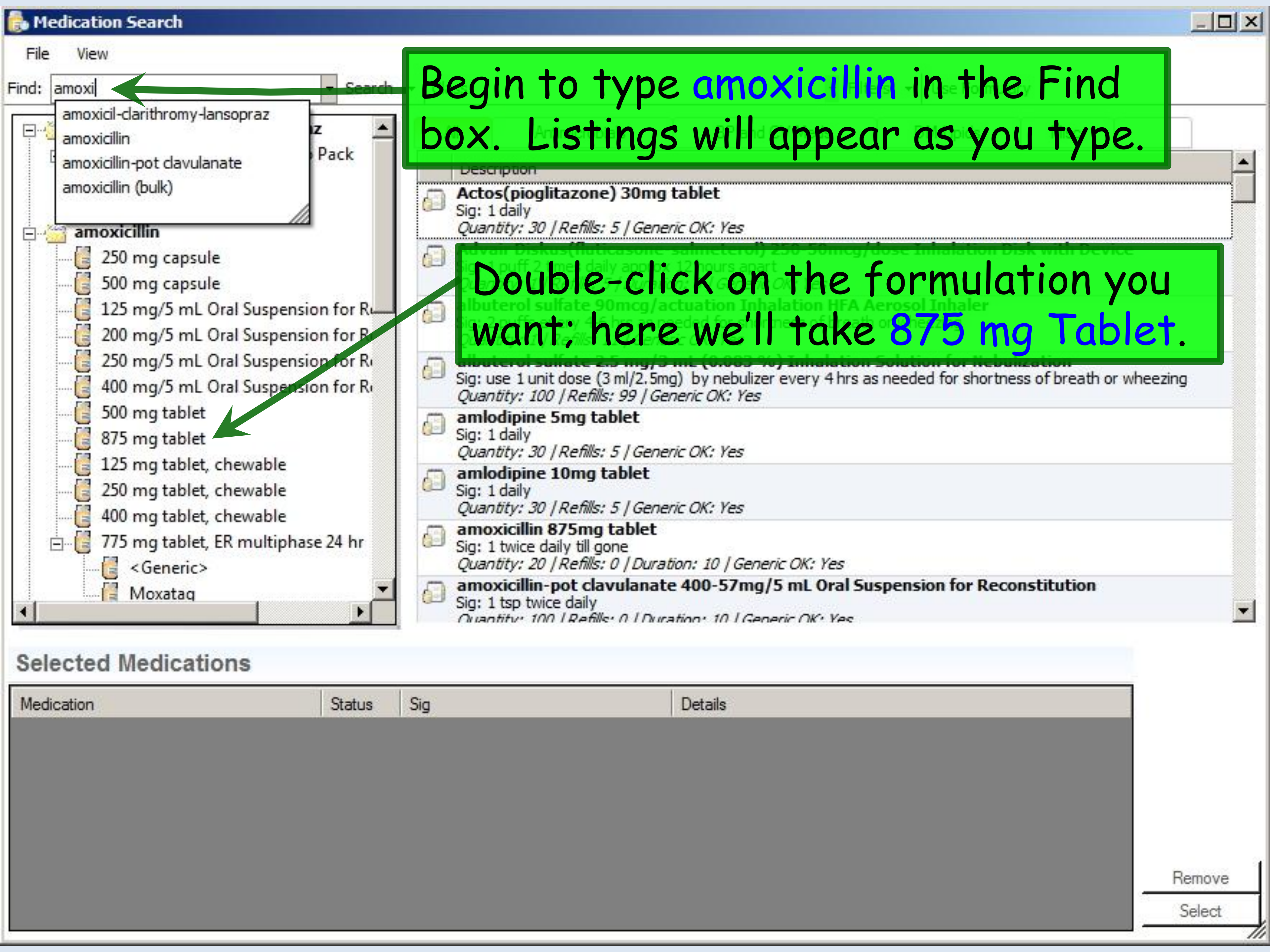
This is how a very simple prescription would go, as presented in the basic NextGen training.

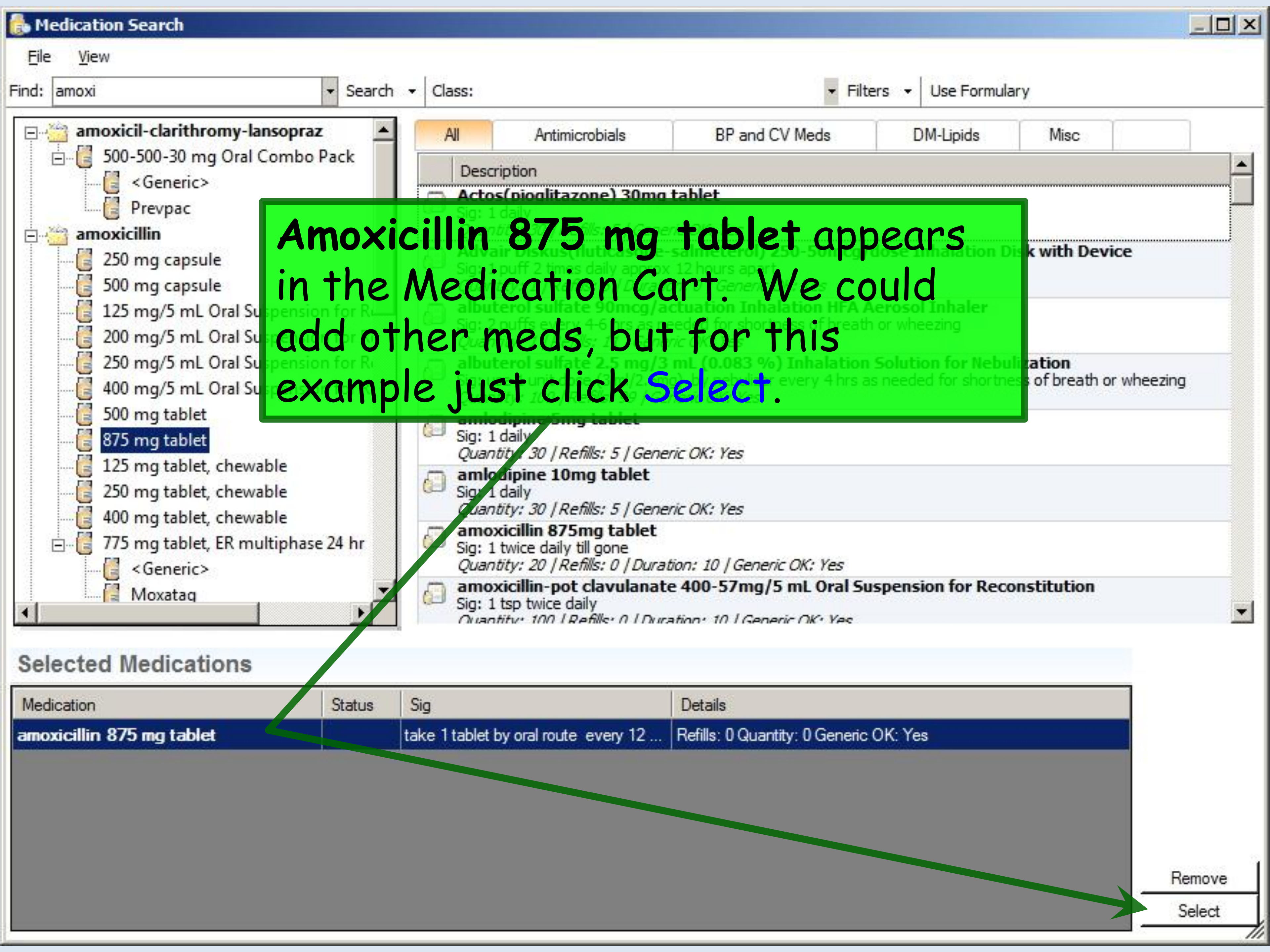
Say we've diagnosed our patient with sinusitis, & we wish to prescribe amoxicillin.

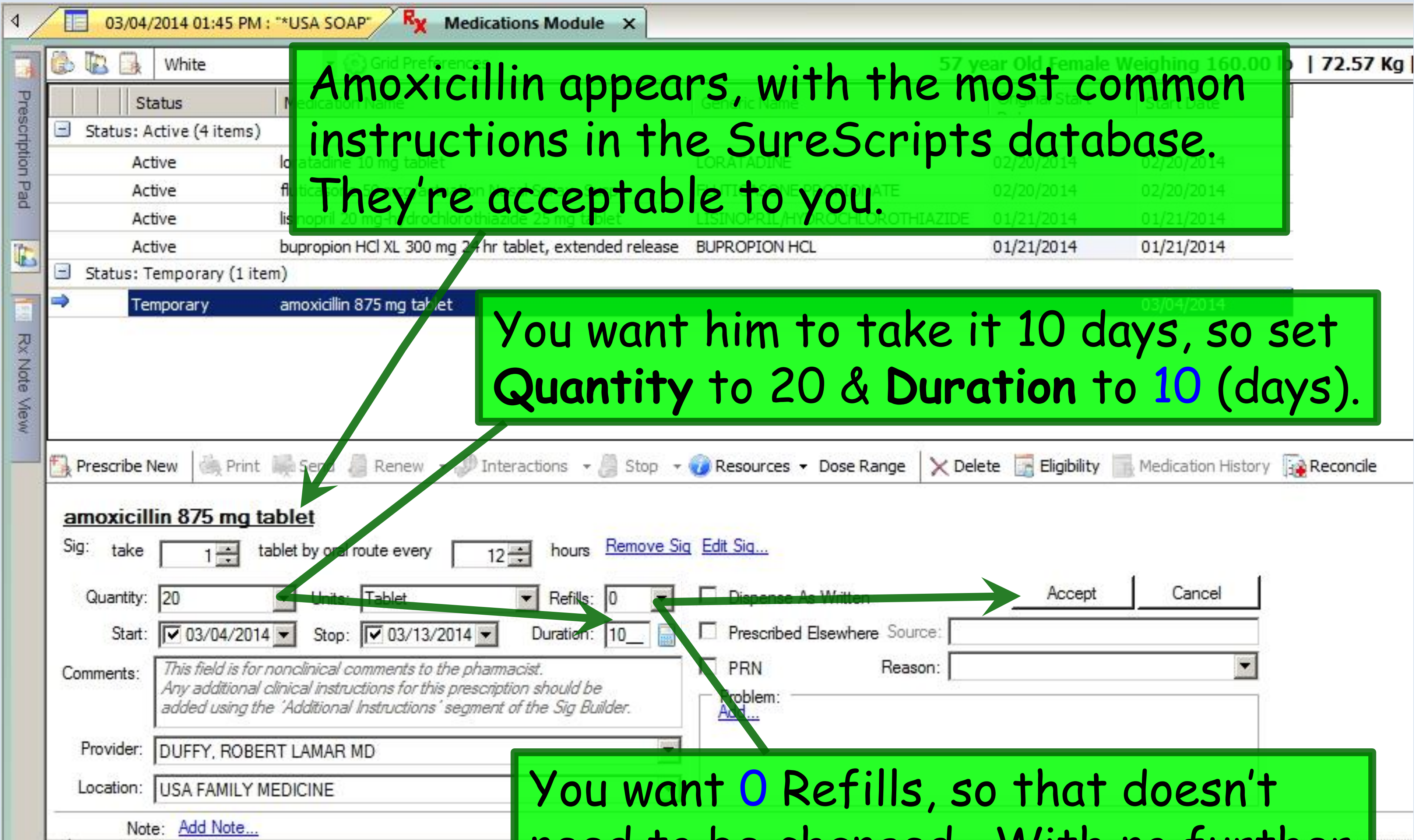


Open the **Medication Module** in any of the ways available.


Click Prescribe New.
06/11/2014 08:41 AM : "*USA SOAP 836"
Medications Module
NextGen
Grid Preferences
57 year Old Female Weighing 163.00 lb | 73.94 Kg
Last Audit
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Sig
Stop Date
Status: Active (2 items)
Active
1 daily
Active
05/23/2014
1 twice daily
Prescribe New
Print
Send
Renew - Edit Rx
Interactions
Stop
Resources
Dose Range
Delete
Rx Eligibility
Medication History
Reconcile
lisinopril 20 mg-hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg tablet
Sig: 1 daily Remove Sig Edit Sig...
Quantity: 30
Units: Tablet
Refills: 5
Dispense As Written
Accept
Cancel
Start: 06/11/2014
Stop: 06/11/2014
Duration:
Prescribed Elsewhere
Source:
Comments:
This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist.
Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA Family Medicine
Note: Add Note...
Formulary Data:
Last Renewed:
Times Renewed:
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail
Patient Condition
Rx Note View
Additional Prescription Detail


Medication Search
File
View
Find:
amoxi
Search
amoxicil-clarithromy-lansopraz
amoxicillin
amoxicillin-pot clavulanate
amoxicillin (bulk)
Begin to type amoxicillin in the Find box. Listings will appear as you type.
Description
Actos(pioglitazone) 30mg tablet
Sig: 1 daily
Quantity: 30 | Refills: 5 | Generic OK: Yes
Double-click on the formulation you want; here we'll take 875 mg Tablet.
amoxicillin
250 mg capsule
500 mg capsule
125 mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for R
200 mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for R
250 mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for R
400 mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for R
500 mg tablet
875 mg tablet
125 mg tablet, chewable
250 mg tablet, chewable
400 mg tablet, chewable
775 mg tablet, ER multiphase 24 hr
<Generic>
Moxatag
Sig: use 1 unit dose (3 ml/2.5mg) by nebulizer every 4 hrs as needed for shortness of breath or wheezing
Quantity: 100 | Refills: 99 | Generic OK: Yes
amlodipine 5mg tablet
Sig: 1 daily
Quantity: 30 | Refills: 5 | Generic OK: Yes
amlodipine 10mg tablet
Sig: 1 daily
Quantity: 30 | Refills: 5 | Generic OK: Yes
amoxicillin 875mg tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily till gone
Quantity: 20 | Refills: 0 | Duration: 10 | Generic OK: Yes
amoxicillin-pot clavulanate 400-57mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for Reconstitution
Sig: 1 tsp twice daily
Selected Medications
Medication
Status
Sig
Details
Remove
Select


Medication Search
File
View
Find: amoxi
Search
Class:
Filters
Use Formulary
amoxicil-clarithromy-lansopraz
500-500-30 mg Oral Combo Pack
<Generic>
Prevpac
amoxicillin
250 mg capsule
500 mg capsule
500 mg tablet
875 mg tablet
125 mg tablet, chewable
250 mg tablet, chewable
400 mg tablet, chewable
775 mg tablet, ER multiphase 24 hr
<Generic>
Moxatag
All
Antimicrobials
BP and CV Meds
DM-Lipids
Misc
Description
amlodipine 10mg tablet
Quantity: 30 | Refills: 5 | Generic OK: Yes
amoxicillin 875mg tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily till gone
Quantity: 20 | Refills: 0 | Duration: 10 | Generic OK: Yes
amoxicillin-pot clavulanate 400-57mg/5 mL Oral Suspension for Reconstitution
Sig: 1 tsp twice daily
Selected Medications
Medication
Status
Sig
Details
amoxicillin 875 mg tablet
take 1 tablet by oral route every 12 ...
Refills: 0 Quantity: 0 Generic OK: Yes
Remove
Select
Amoxicillin 875 mg tablet appears in the Medication Cart. We could add other meds, but for this example just click Select.

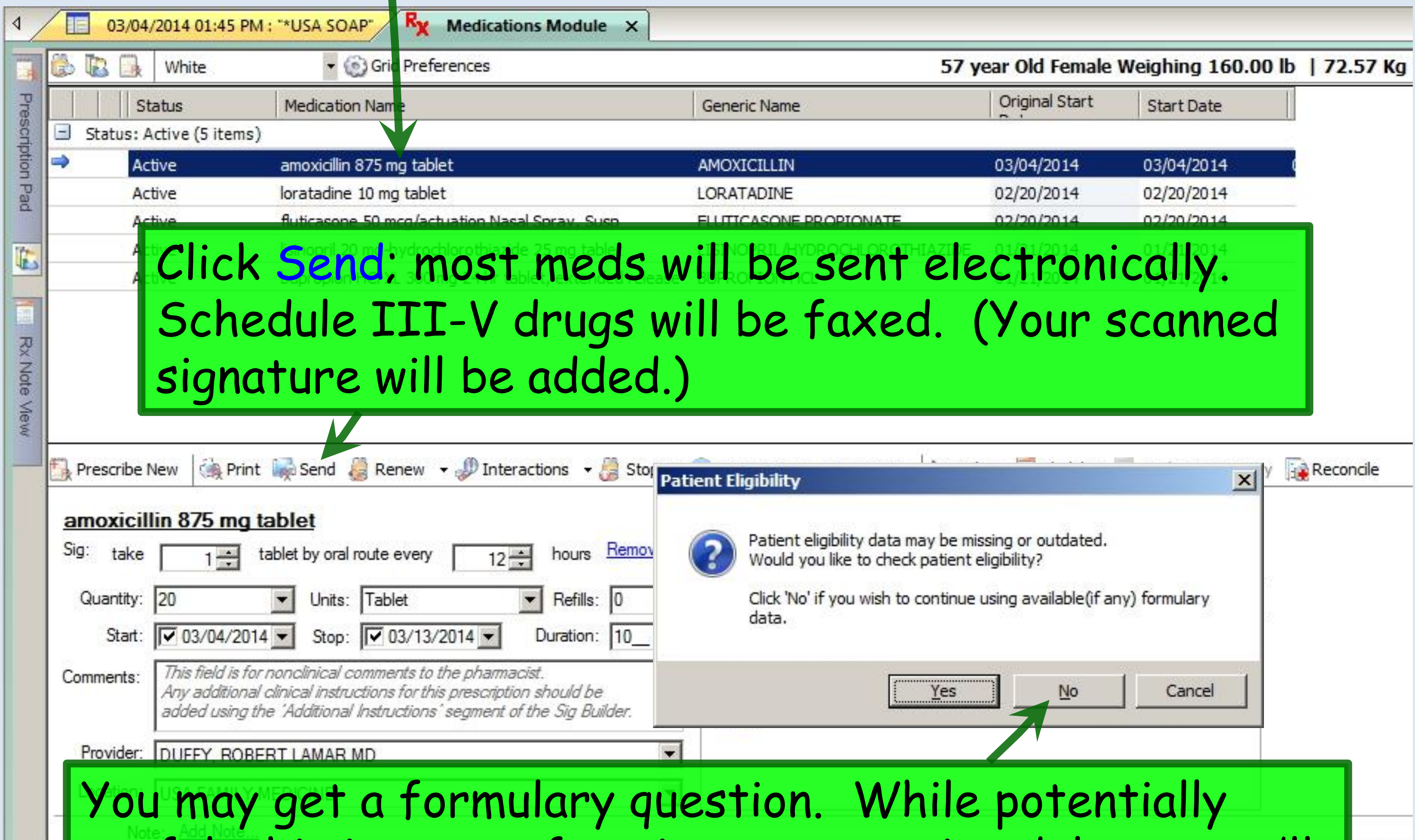


Amoxicillin appears, with the most common instructions in the SureScripts database. They're acceptable to you.

You want him to take it 10 days, so set **Quantity** to 20 & **Duration** to 10 (days).

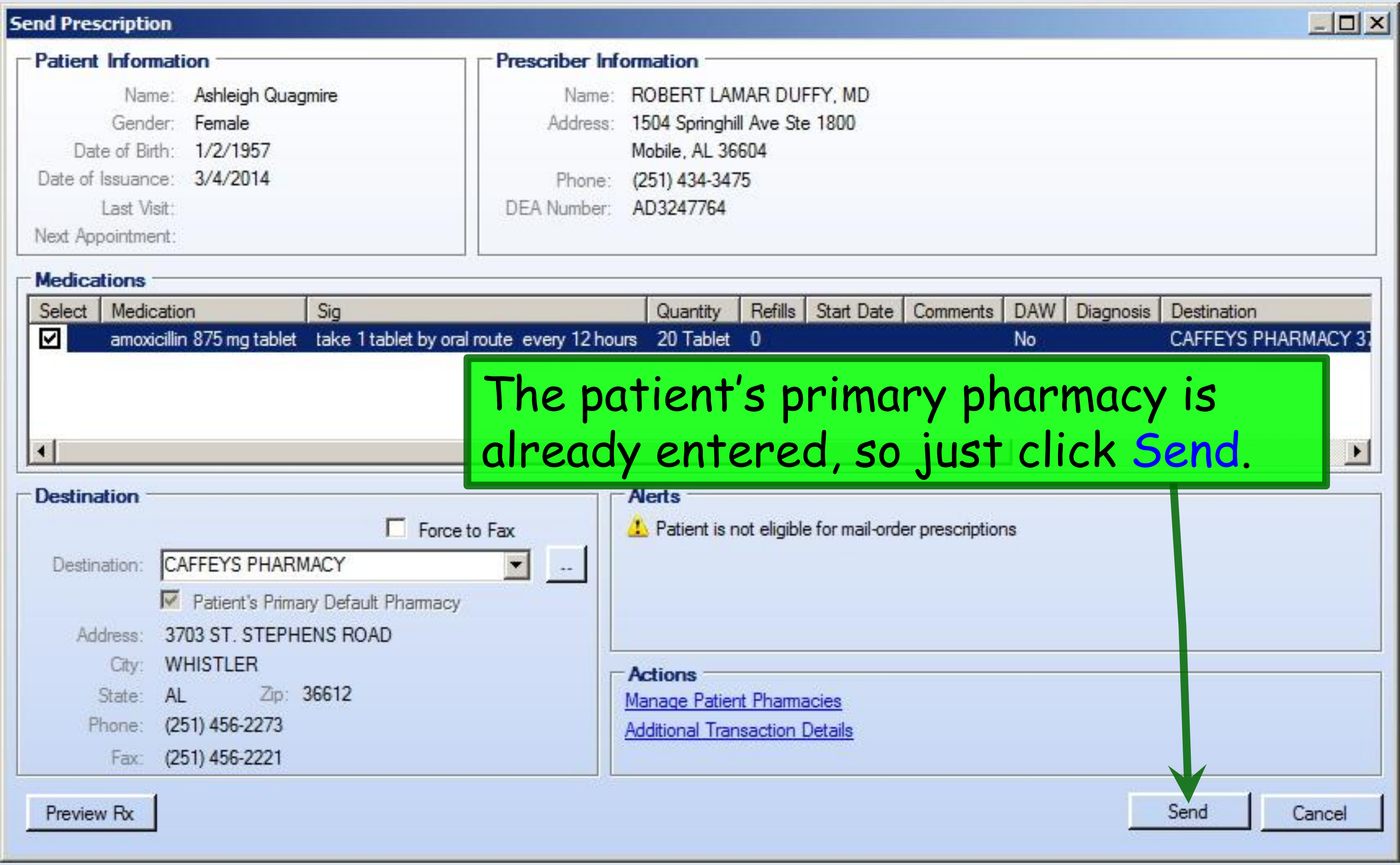
You want 0 Refills, so that doesn't need to be changed. With no further changes to make, click Accept.

Amoxicillin is moved to the **Active** Med list.



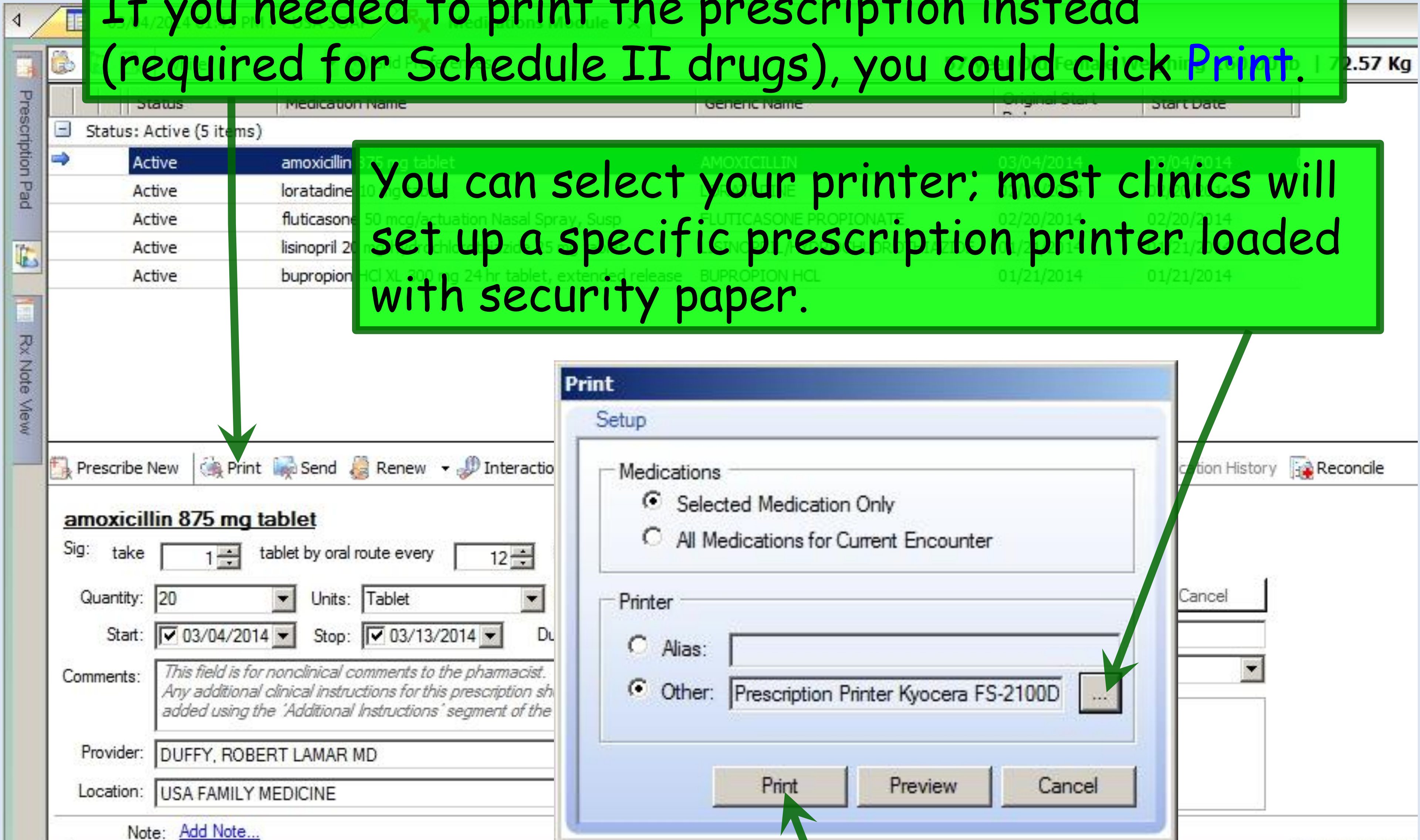
Click Send; most meds will be sent electronically. Schedule III-V drugs will be faxed. (Your scanned signature will be added.)

You may get a formulary question. While potentially useful, this is more often just an annoying delay, so we'll click through it by selecting No.


Send Prescription
Patient Information
Name: Ashleigh Quagmire
Gender: Female
Date of Birth: 1/2/1957
Date of Issuance: 3/4/2014
Last Visit:
Next Appointment:
Prescriber Information
Name: ROBERT LAMAR DUFFY, MD
Address: 1504 Springhill Ave Ste 1800
Mobile, AL 36604
Phone: (251) 434-3475
DEA Number: AD3247764
Medications
Select Medication Sig Quantity Refills Start Date Comments DAW Diagnosis Destination
amoxicillin 875 mg tablet take 1 tablet by oral route every 12 hours 20 Tablet 0 No CAFFEYS PHARMACY 37
The patient's primary pharmacy is already entered, so just click Send.
Destination
Force to Fax
Destination: CAFFEYS PHARMACY
Patient's Primary Default Pharmacy
Address: 3703 ST. STEPHENS ROAD
City: WHISTLER
State: AL
Zip: 36612
Phone: (251) 456-2273
Fax: (251) 456-2221
Alerts
Patient is not eligible for mail-order prescriptions
Actions
Manage Patient Pharmacies
Additional Transaction Details
Preview Rx
Send
Cancel

If you needed to print the prescription instead (required for Schedule II drugs), you could click Print.

You can select your printer; most clinics will set up a specific prescription printer loaded with security paper.

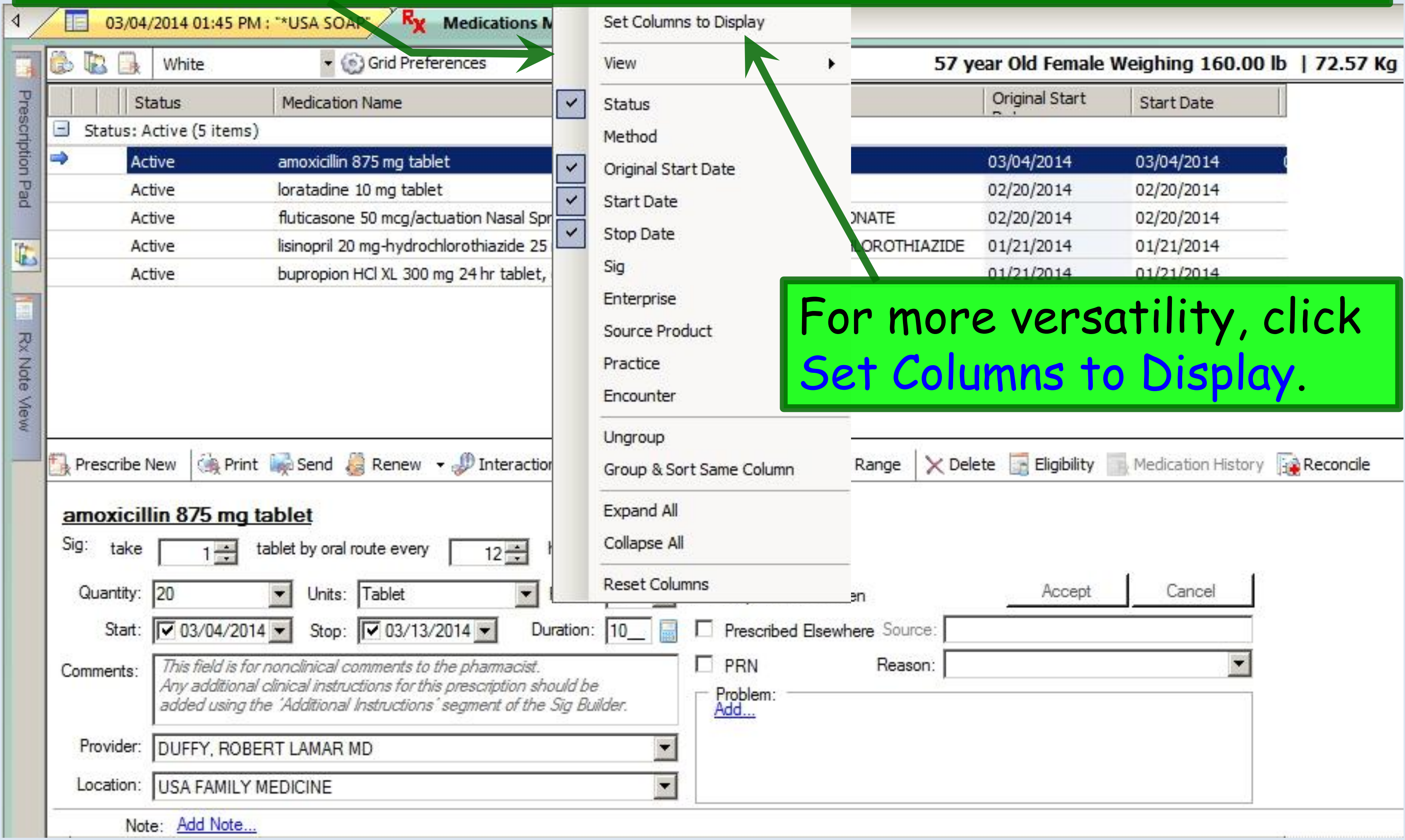


Then click Print.

Personalizing Your Medication Module Appearance

You can modify a few aspects of your Med Module view to make it a little more useful.

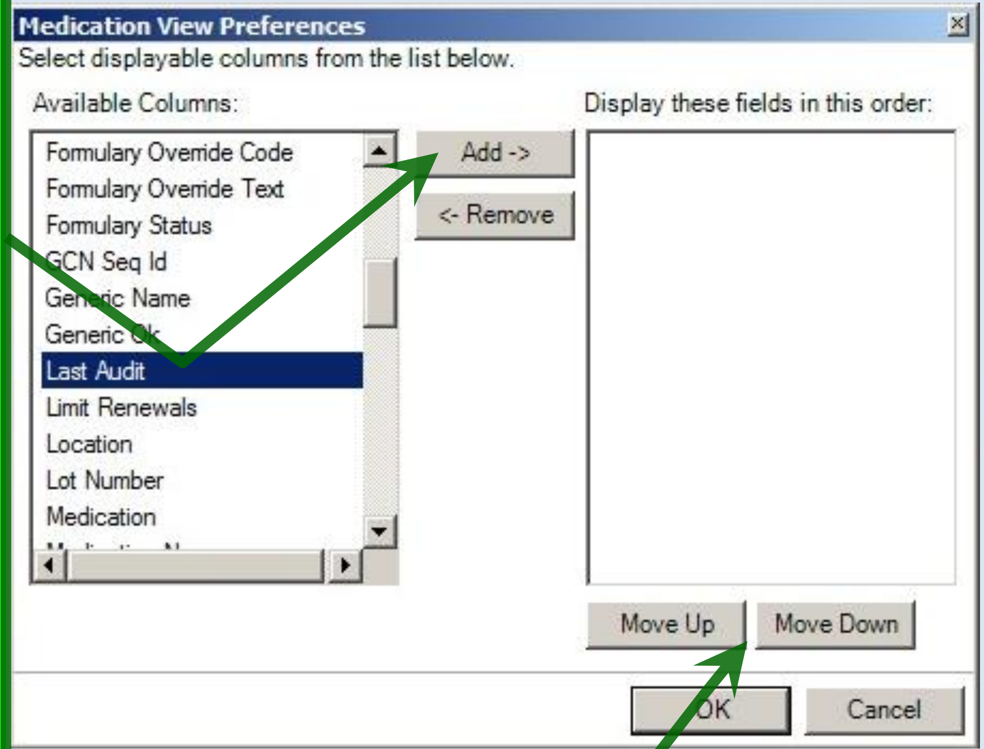
You can select several display options, such the columns you want to display & their order. Click Grid Preferences, & you'll see several things you can select directly.



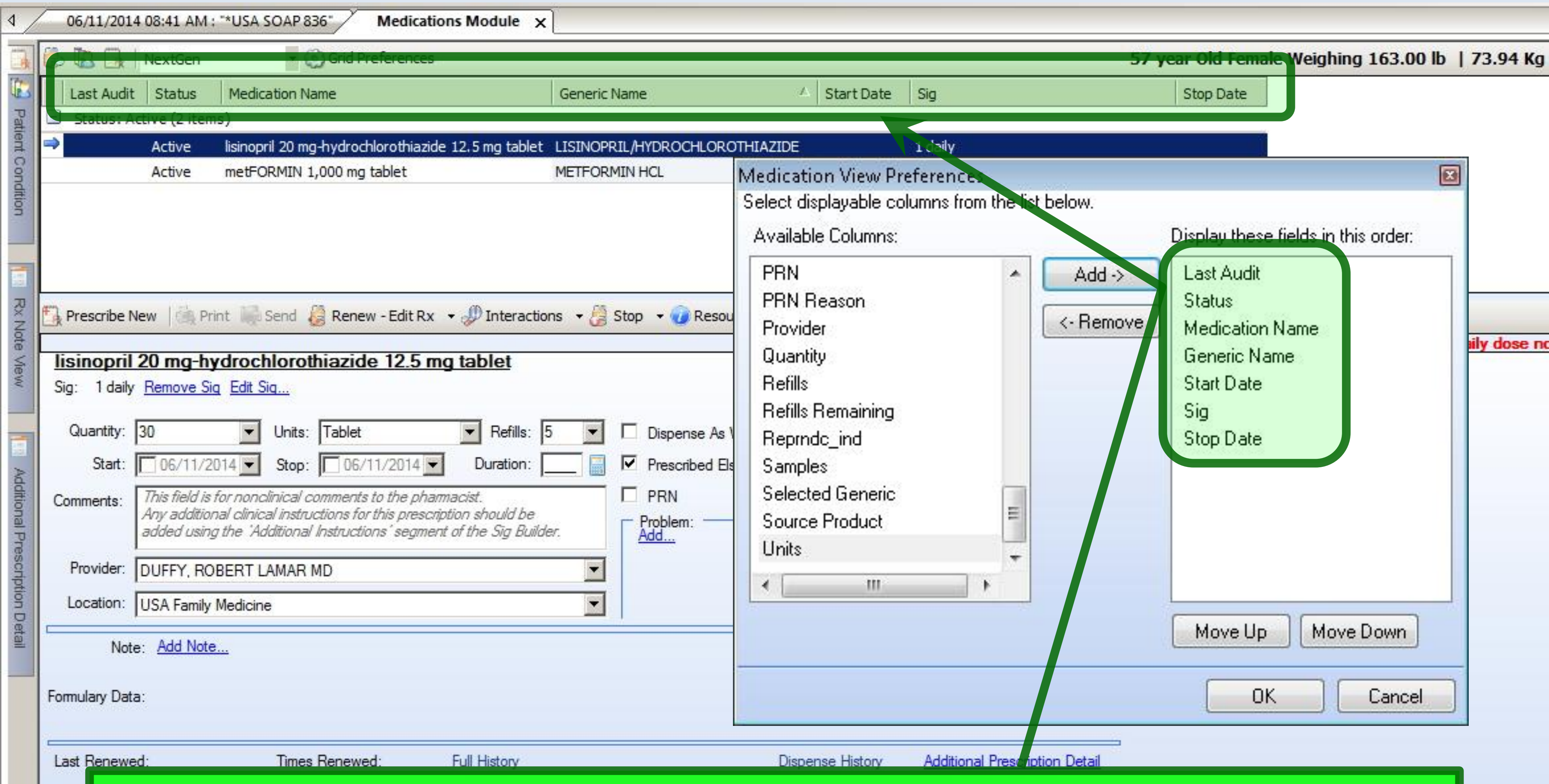
For more versatility, click Set Columns to Display.

Here you can select which column headers you want to see, & in what order. A very useful one to add that is not activated by default is the confusingly-named **Last Audit** column.

Scroll through the list on the left, select the desired item, then click the Add-> button to move it to the list on the right.



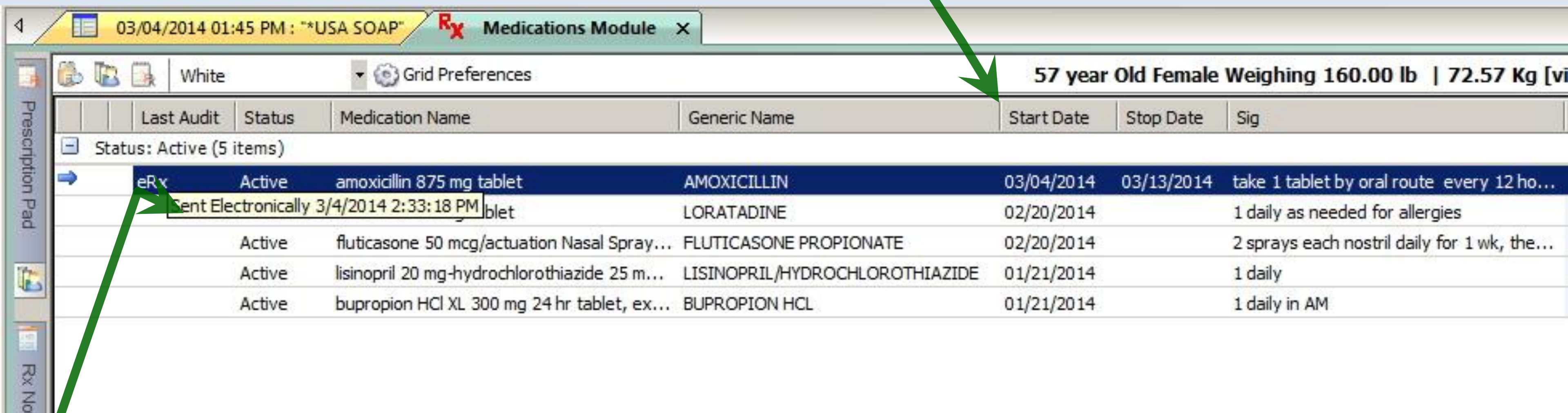
You can use the Move Up or Move Down buttons to adjust the order of the columns.



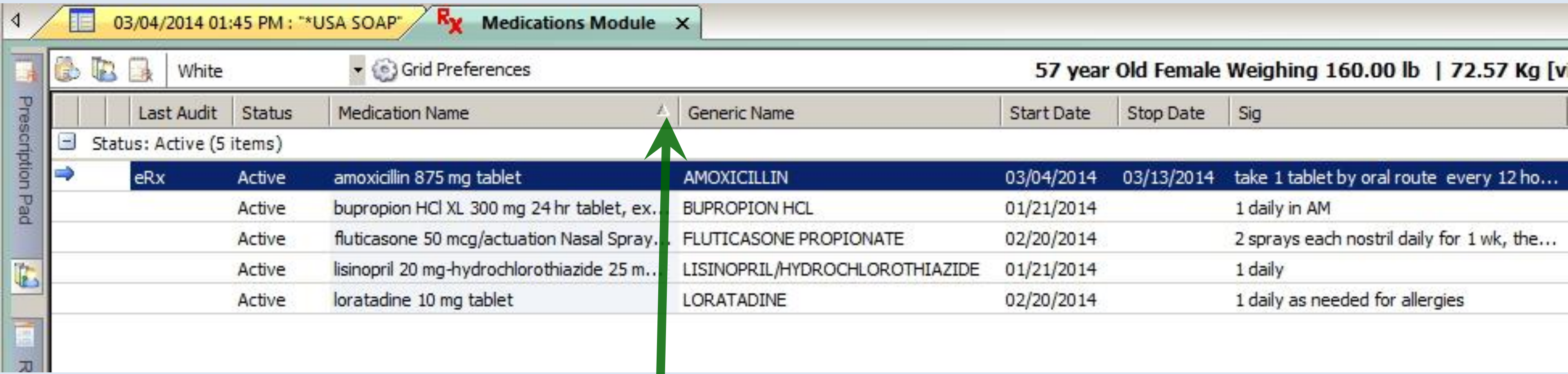
Choose whatever you like, but a useful configuration is: Last Audit; Status; Medication Name; Generic Name; Start Date; SIG; Stop Date.

Click OK when done.

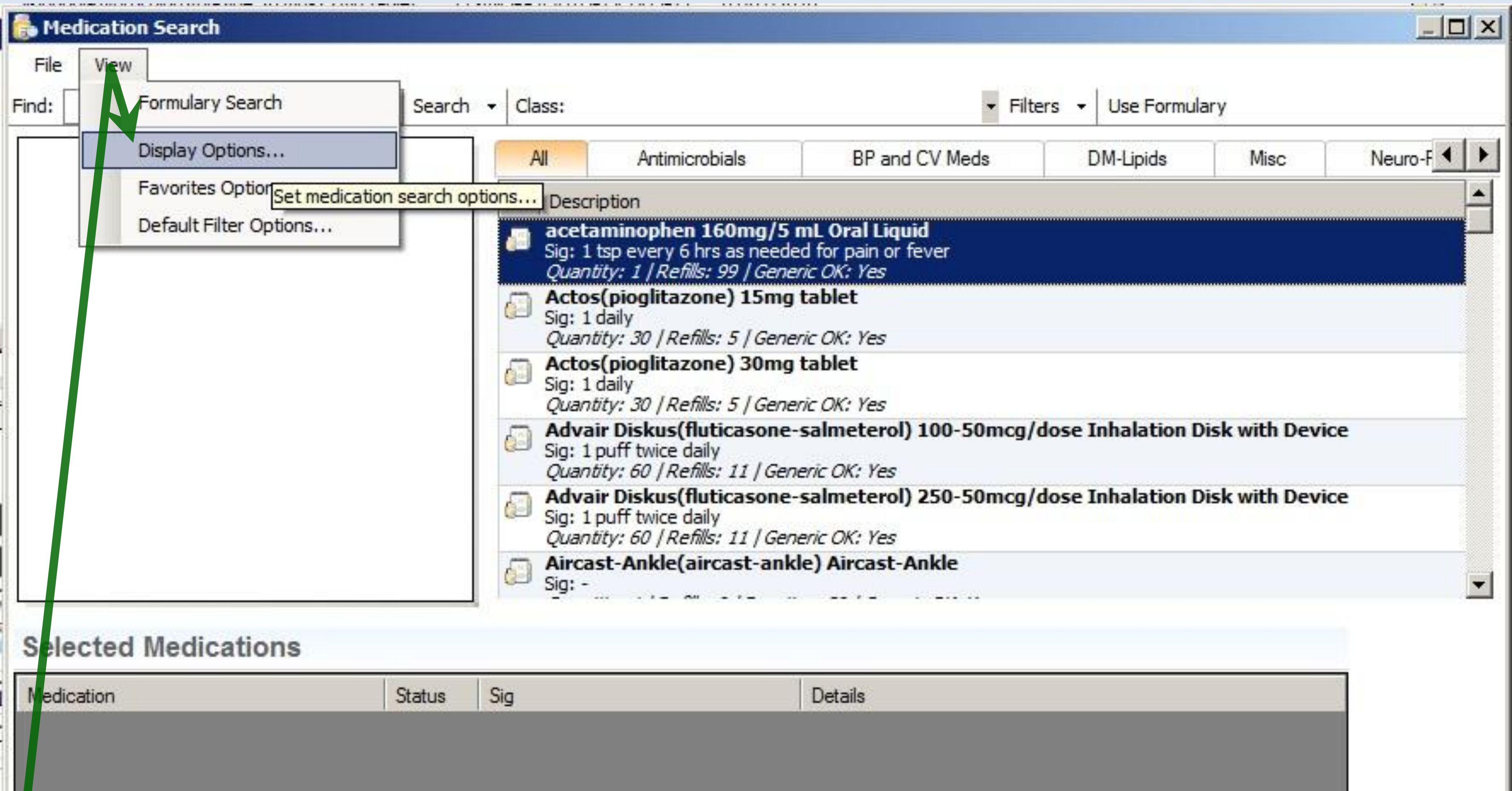
Note that you can click on the dividers between columns to drag & resize to best fit your display.



The **Last Audit** column will tell you if the med has been dispensed, & whether it was printed, faxed, or ERx'd. And as a bonus, if you hover your mouse cursor over those words (**eRx** in this example), balloon text will give you the date & time it was done. This is very helpful when you have a long list of meds & you're trying to keep track of which ones you've refilled & which you haven't.

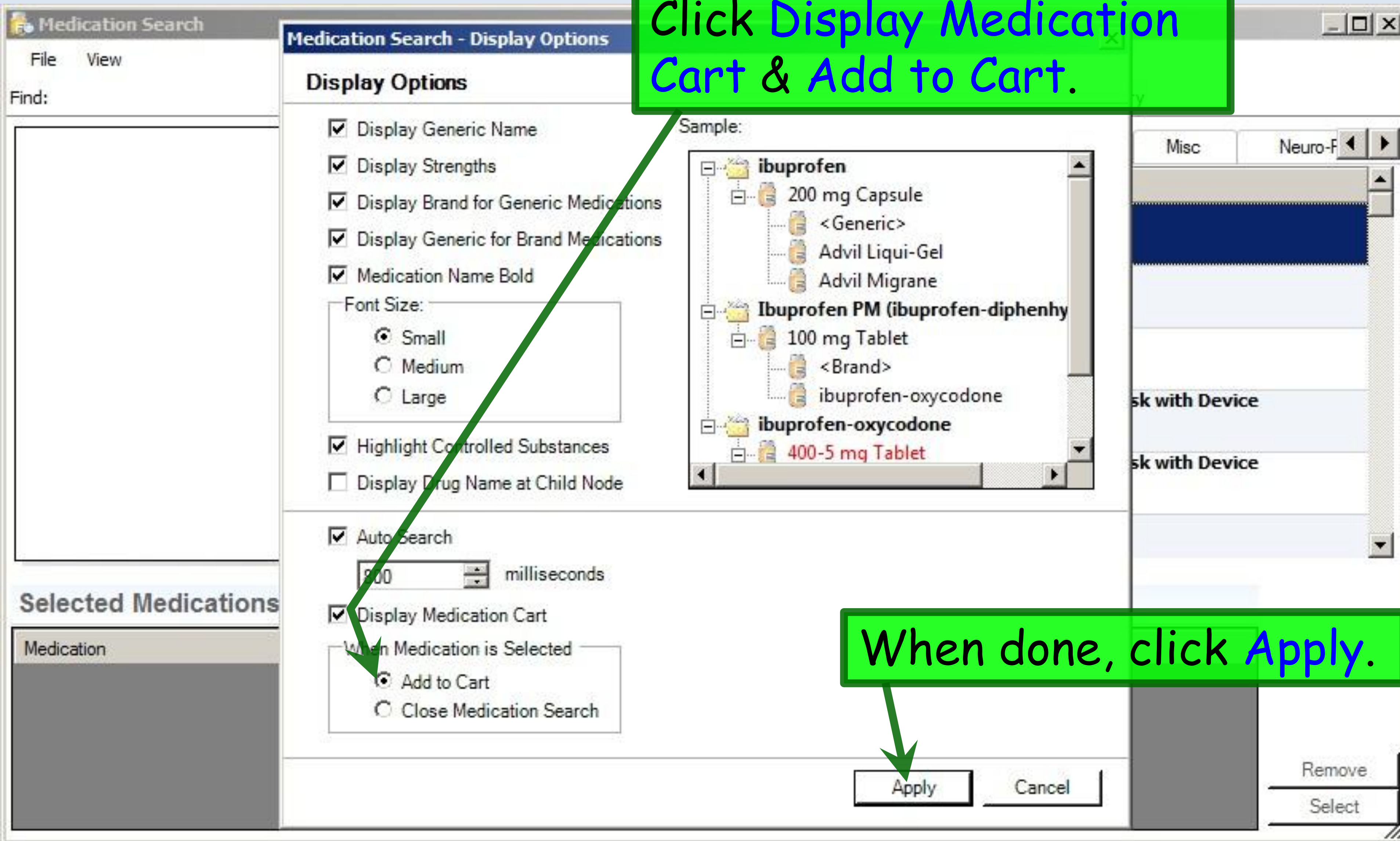


You can also click on a **column header** to sort the list by that column, top to bottom or bottom to top. You may want to re-order the list by Med Name, Last Audit, or Start Date to help as you work through a particularly long med list.



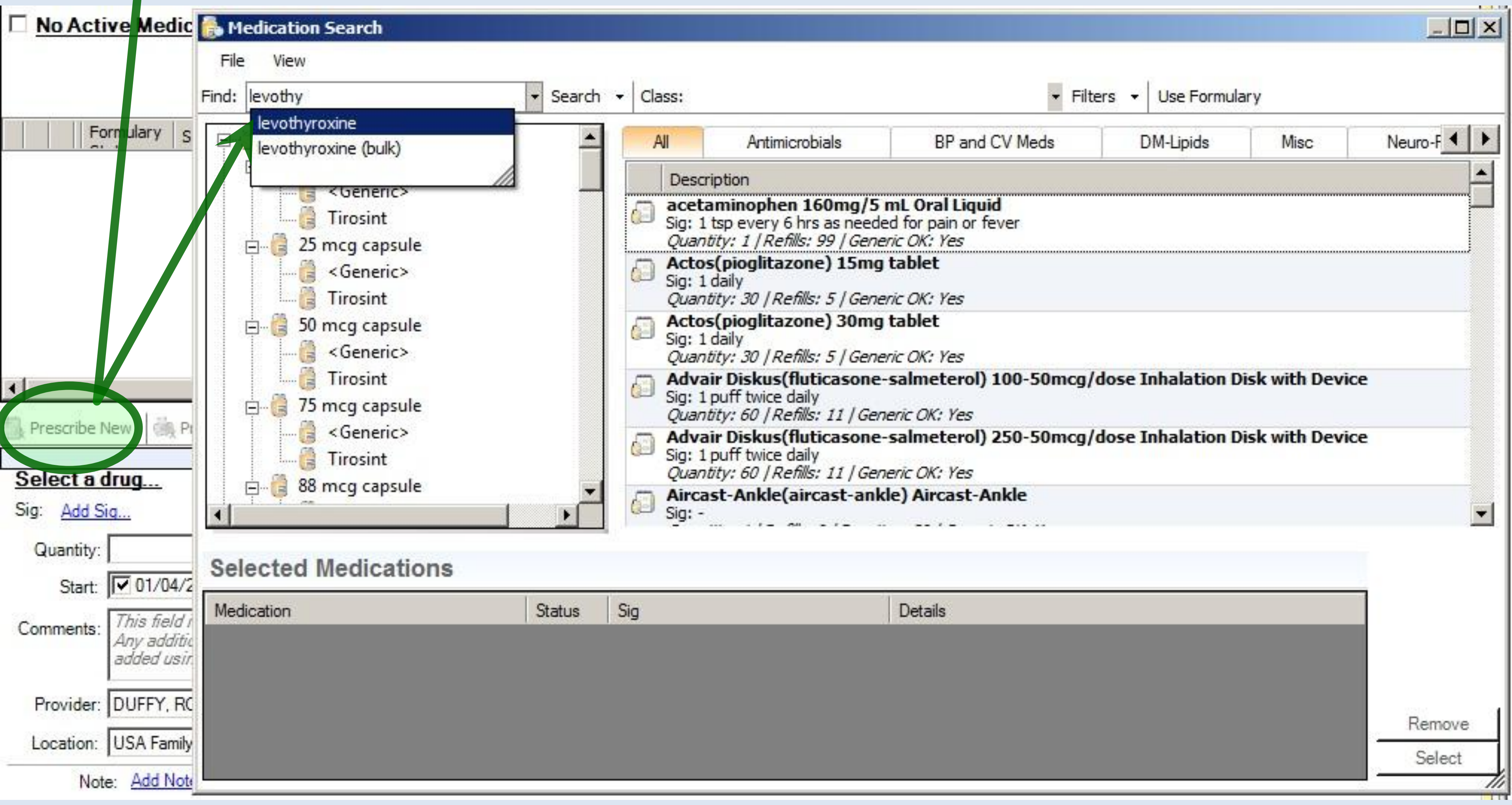
In the **Medication Search** popup, you can enable a useful workflow improvement called the **Medication Cart**—but you may need to make a modification to see it. Click View|Display Options…

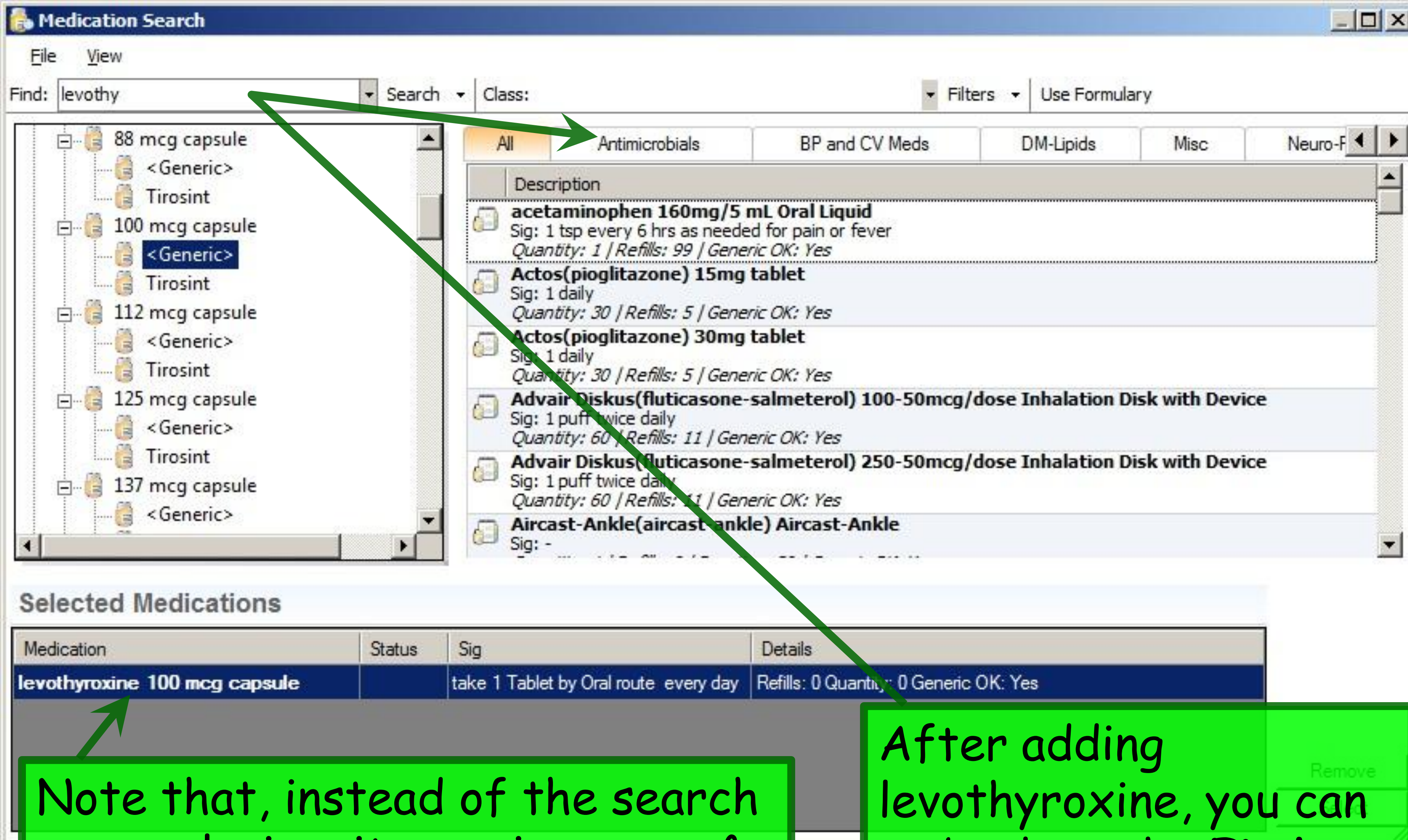
Click Display Medication Cart & Add to Cart.



When done, click Apply.

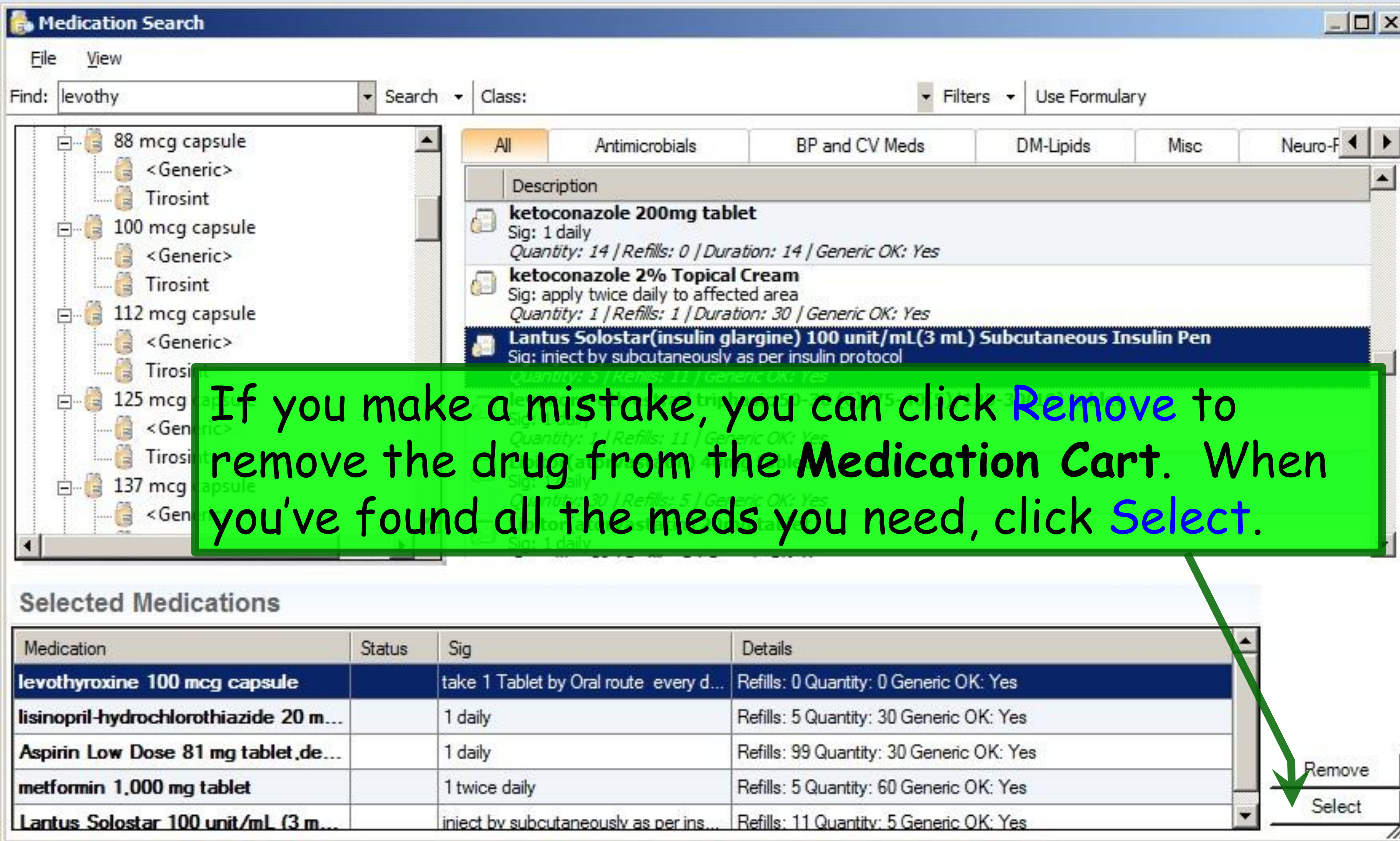
Now you can search for multiple meds without closing the search popup between each one. To illustrate, click Prescribe New, search for levothyroxine, & double-click to pick a dose.



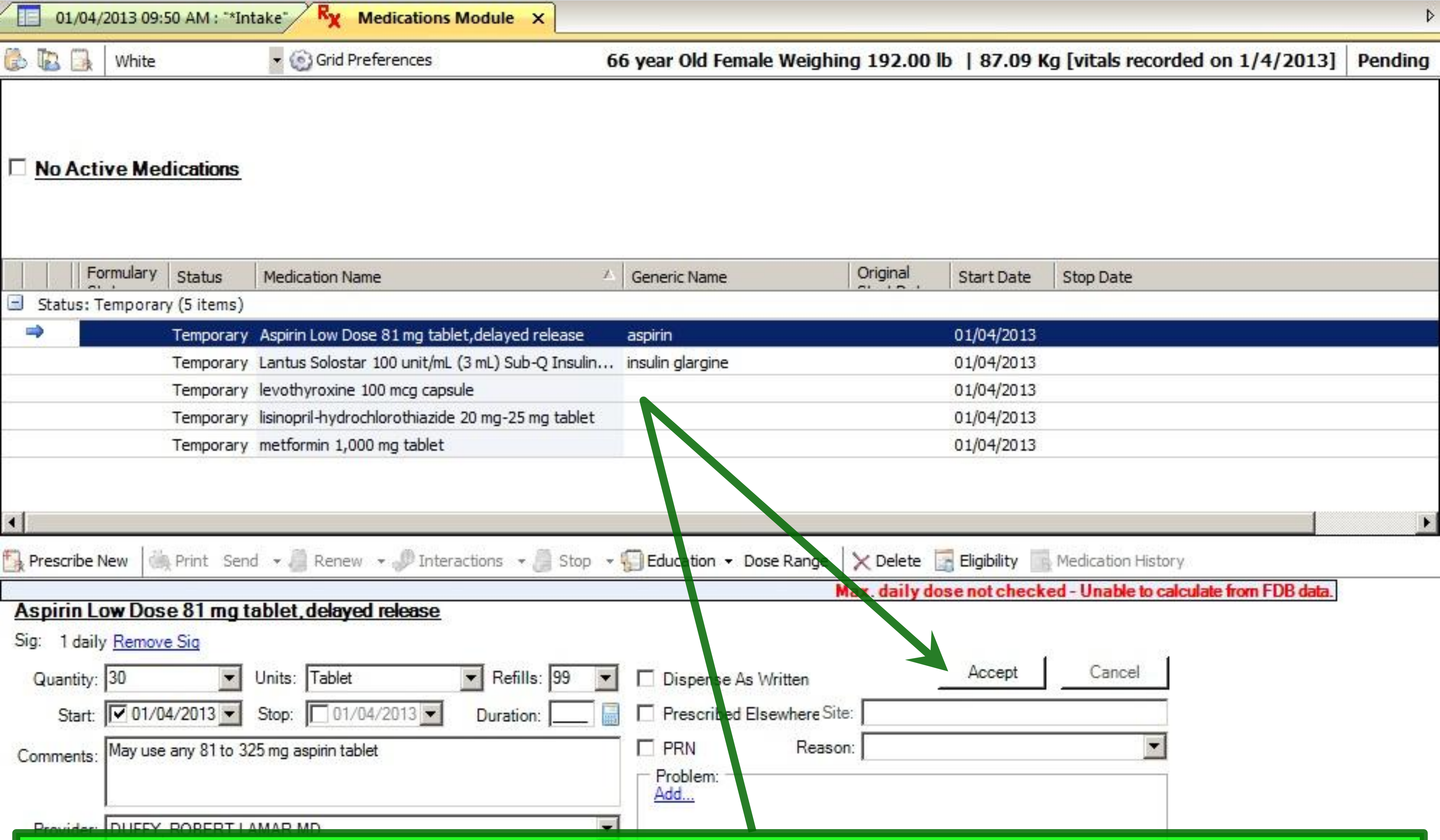


Note that, instead of the search popup closing, it remains open, & your med appears on this list at the bottom, which is called the **Medication Cart**.

After adding levothyroxine, you can go back to the **Find** box & search for other meds, or select them from your Favorites.



If you make a mistake, you can click Remove to remove the drug from the **Medication Cart**. When you've found all the meds you need, click Select.



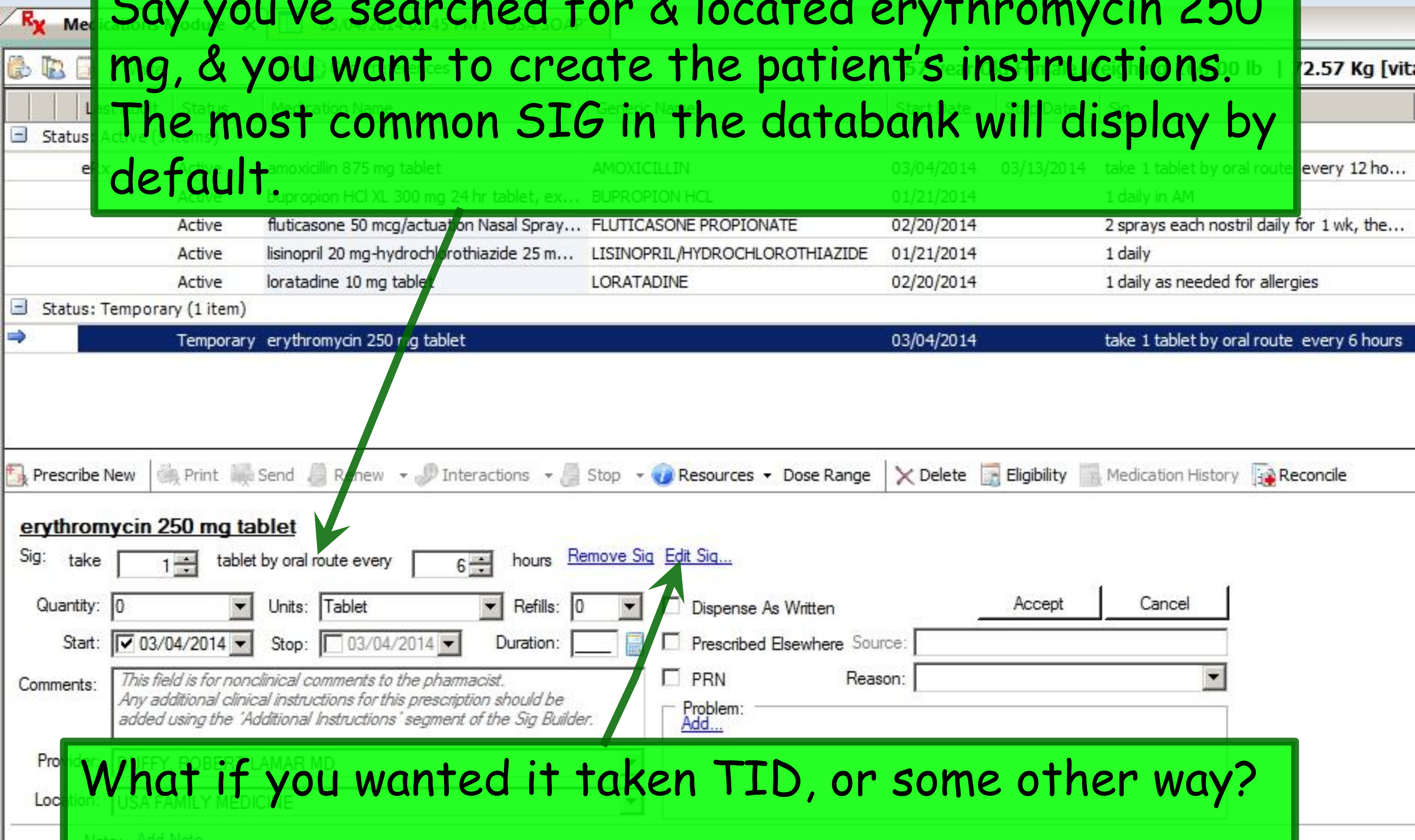
All of the meds in the **Medication Cart** are now on the **Temporary Med List**. Go through them one at a time to modify SIG & other details as you normally would, clicking Accept when done to add them to the **Active Med List**.

Prescription Instuctions: Using the SIG Builder

For completeness' sake, here's a demonstration of the Medication Module SIG Builder, ostensibly NextGen's standard way of creating medication SIGs.

<u>But Note</u>: While the SIG Builder is WAY better than it used to be, you may find it easier just to type SIGs, as shown in a moment.

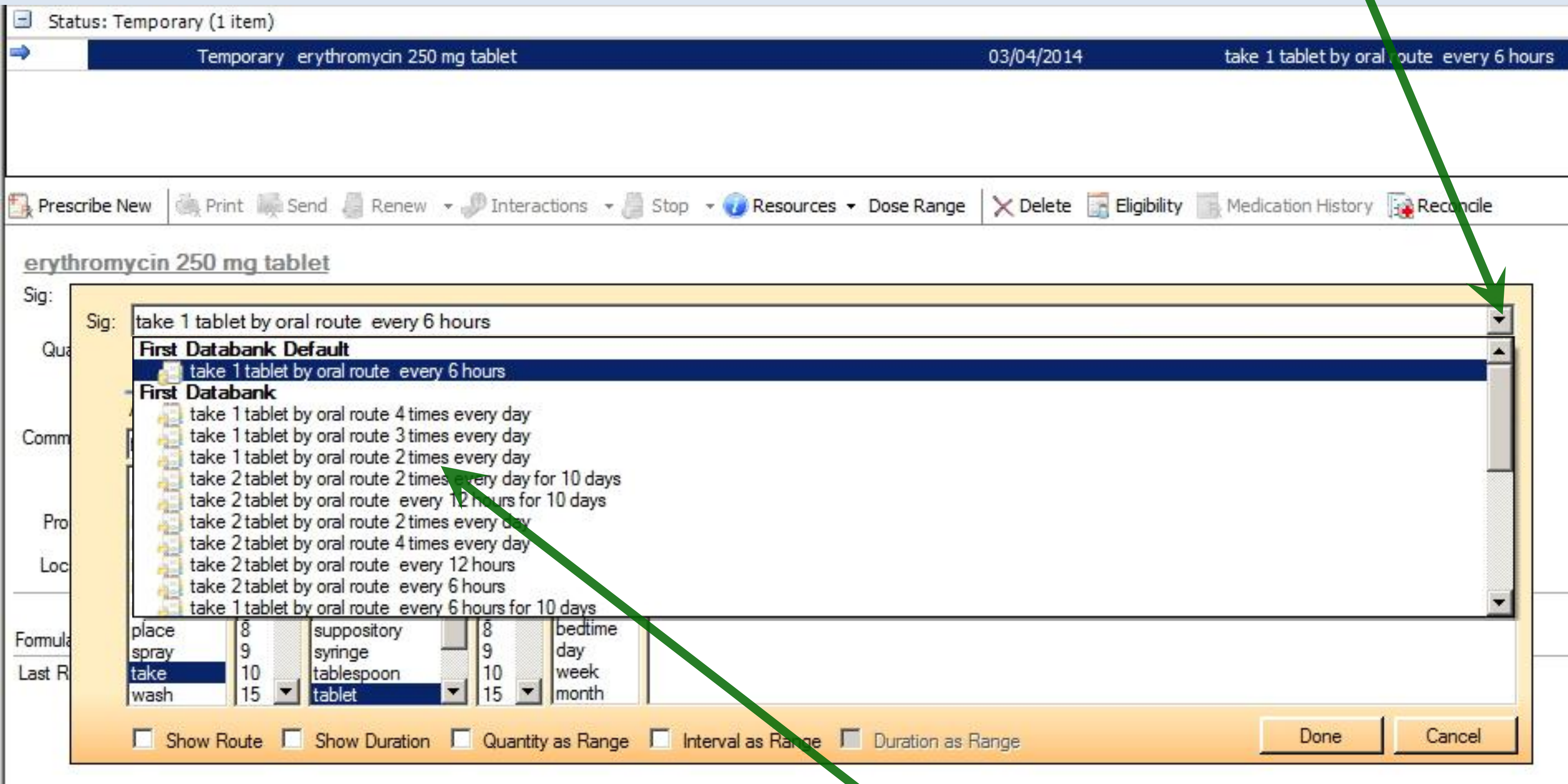
Say you've searched for & located erythromycin 250 mg, & you want to create the patient's instructions. The most common SIG in the databank will display by default.



What if you wanted it taken TID, or some other way?

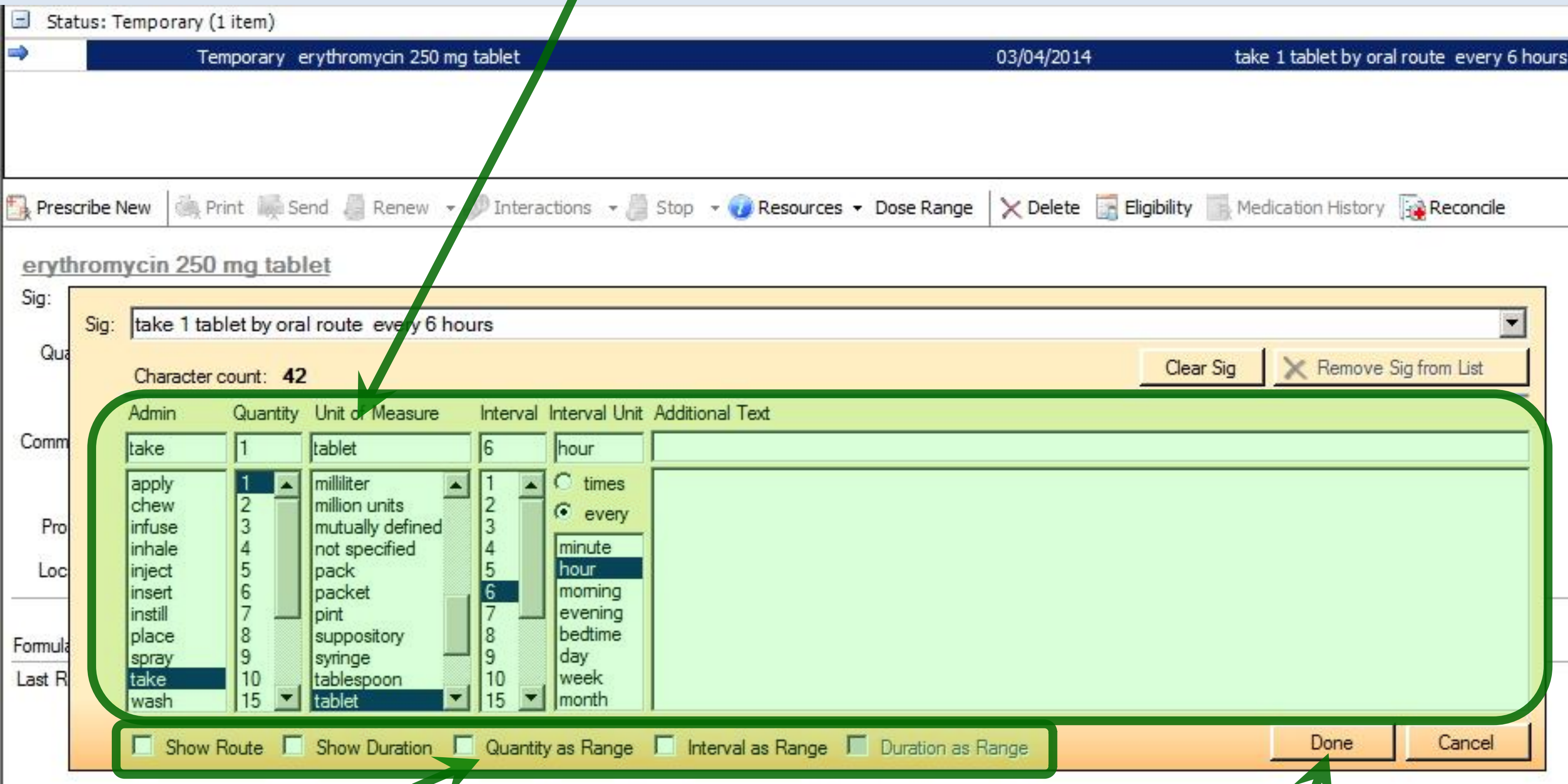
Begin by clicking Remove Sig.

You can click the dropdown arrow…



…and you'll see a list of other suggested alternatives in the databank. Just click one to select it.

Alternately, you can just work through the picklists to build your SIG.

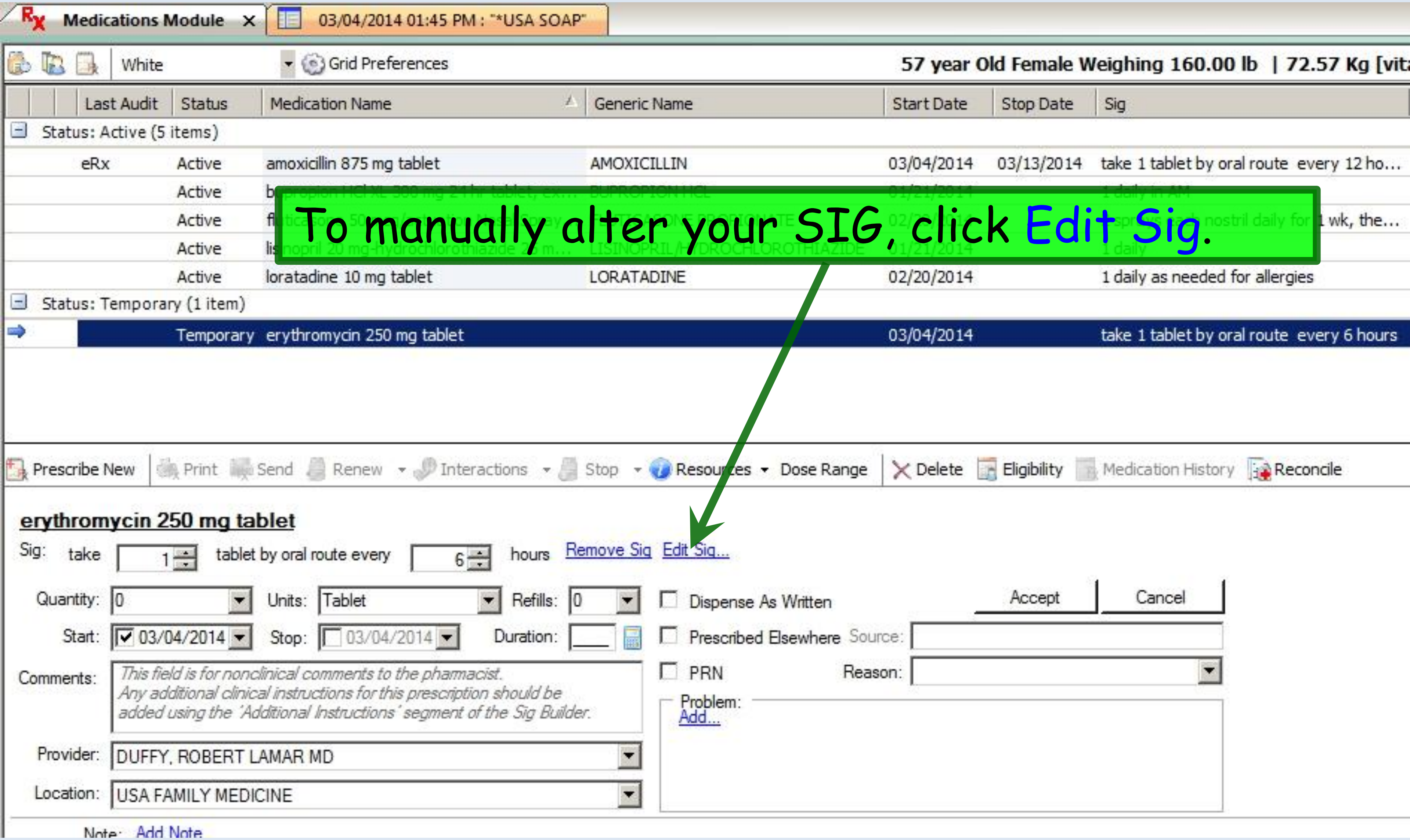


You have some checkboxes to add other columns if desired.

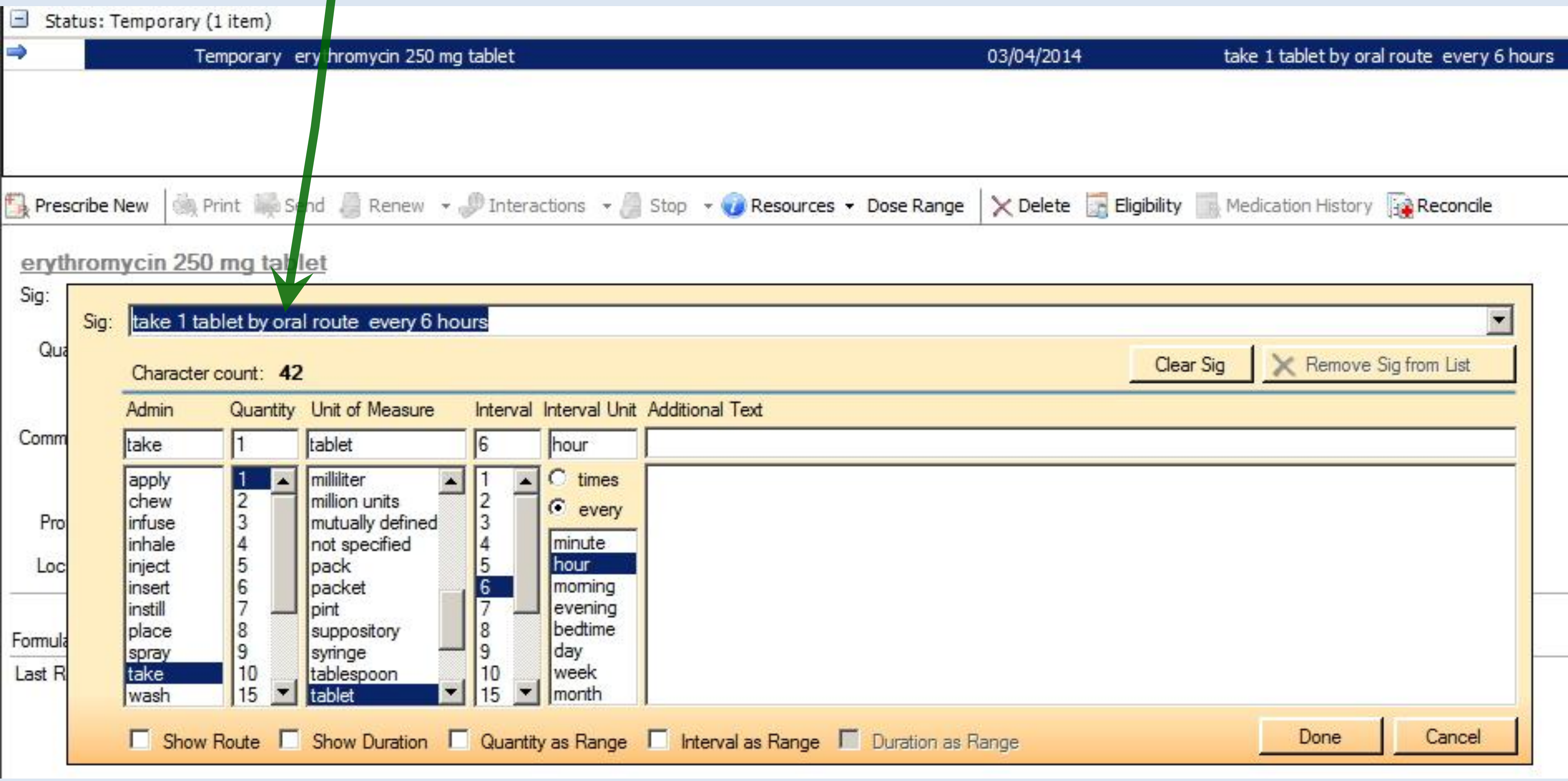
When done, click Done.

Prescription Instuctions: Manually creating a SIG

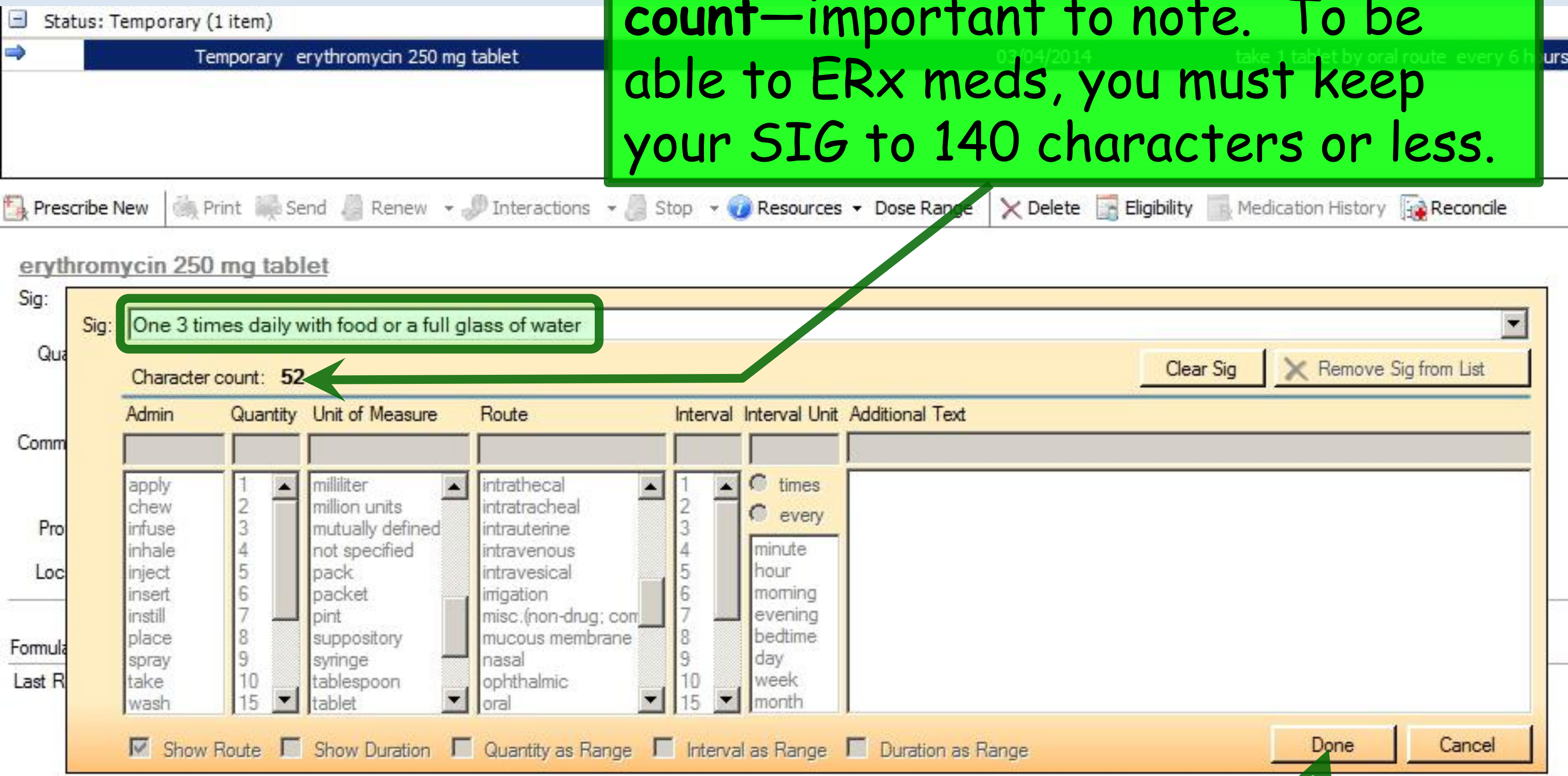
Many people find it easier & more versatile just to type a SIG.


To manually alter your SIG, click Edit Sig.
Medications Module
03/04/2014 01:45 PM : "*USA SOAP"
White
Grid Preferences
57 year Old Female Weighing 160.00 lb | 72.57 Kg [vit
Last Audit
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Sig
Status: Active (5 items)
eRx
Active
amoxicillin 875 mg tablet
AMOXICILLIN
03/04/2014
03/13/2014
take 1 tablet by oral route every 12 ho...
loratadine 10 mg tablet
LORATADINE
02/20/2014
1 daily as needed for allergies
Status: Temporary (1 item)
Temporary
erythromycin 250 mg tablet
take 1 tablet by oral route every 6 hours
Prescribe New
Print
Send
Renew
Interactions
Stop
Resources
Dose Range
Delete
Eligibility
Medication History
Reconcile
erythromycin 250 mg tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by oral route every 6 hours
Remove Sig
Edit Sig...
Quantity: 0
Units: Tablet
Refills: 0
Dispense As Written
Accept
Cancel
Start: 03/04/2014
Stop: 03/04/2014
Duration:
Prescribed Elsewhere
Source:
PRN
Reason:
Comments:
This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist.
Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE
Note: Add Note

Highlight the existing text, & just type over it. You can type things that are briefer & more closely resemble English than the SIG Builder's offerings, or add further details.

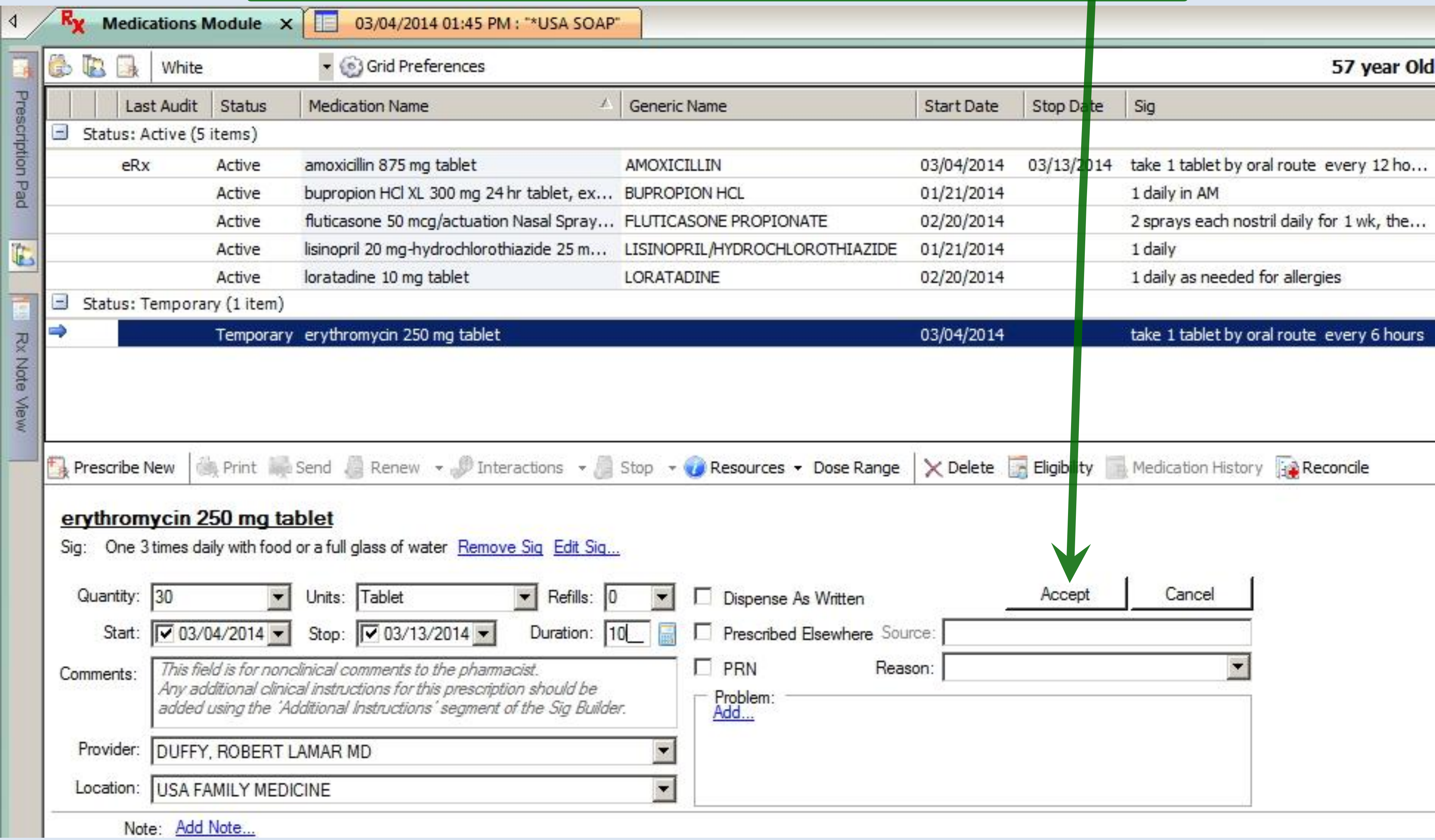


Observe that you get a **Character count**—important to note. To be able to ERx meds, you must keep your SIG to 140 characters or less.



When done, click Done.

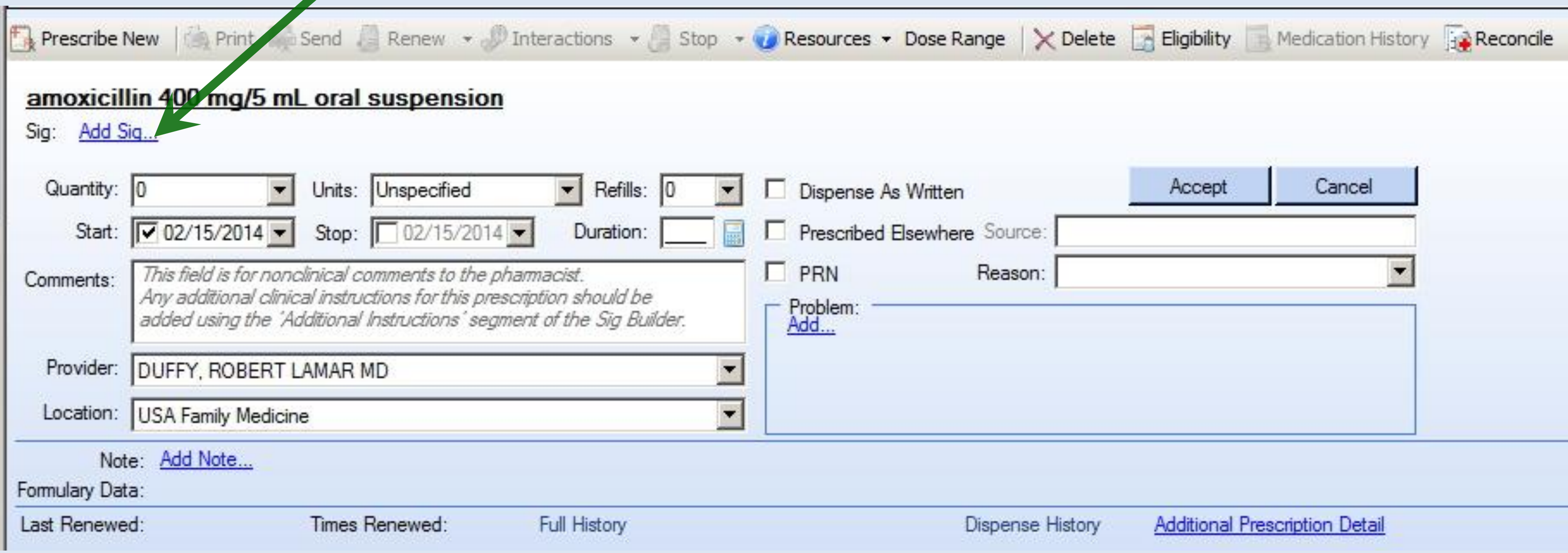
Enter quantity, duration, & click Accept.



Prescription Instuctions: Pediatric SIG Builder

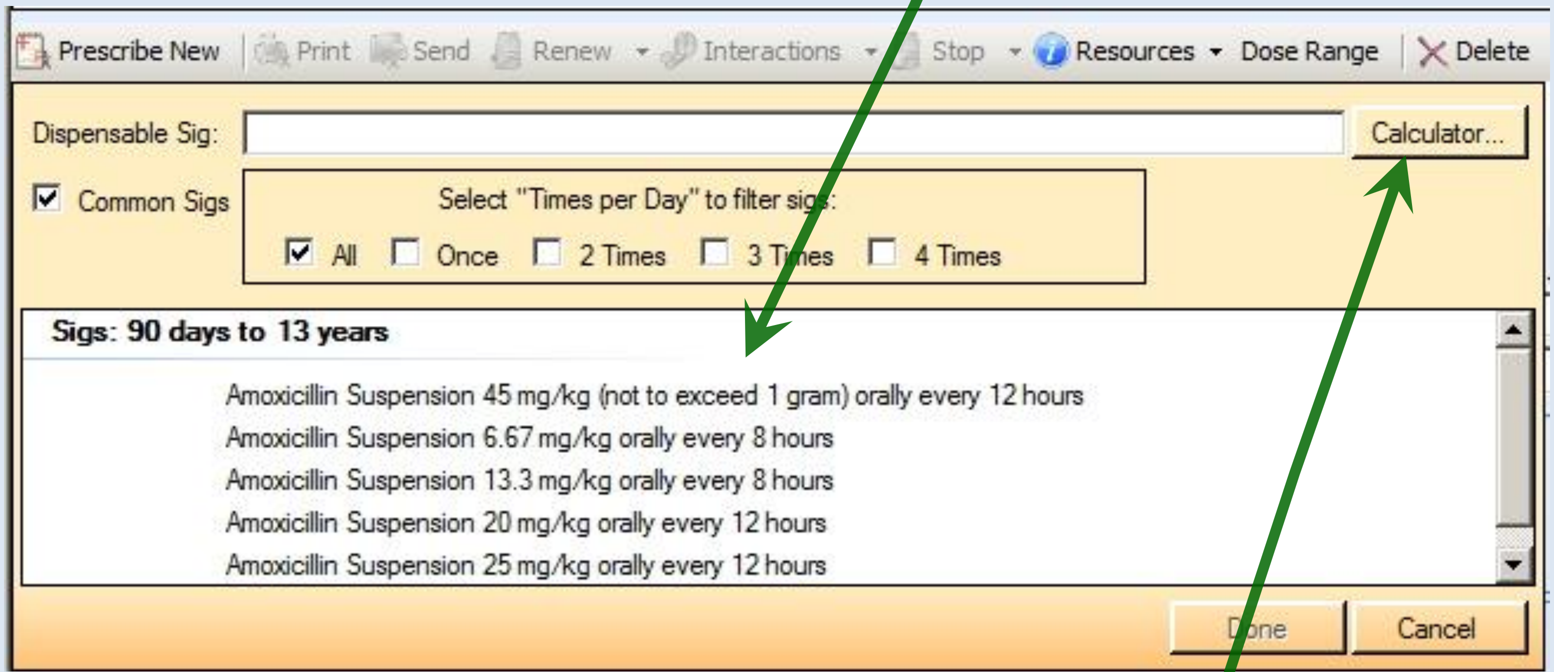
The pediatric SIG Builder gives several useful options, especially when it comes to weight-based dosing.

For pediatric med dosing you have the option to see suggested dosing, or calculate dosing, on a per-kg basis. To do this, either click the visible SIG, or click Add Sig….



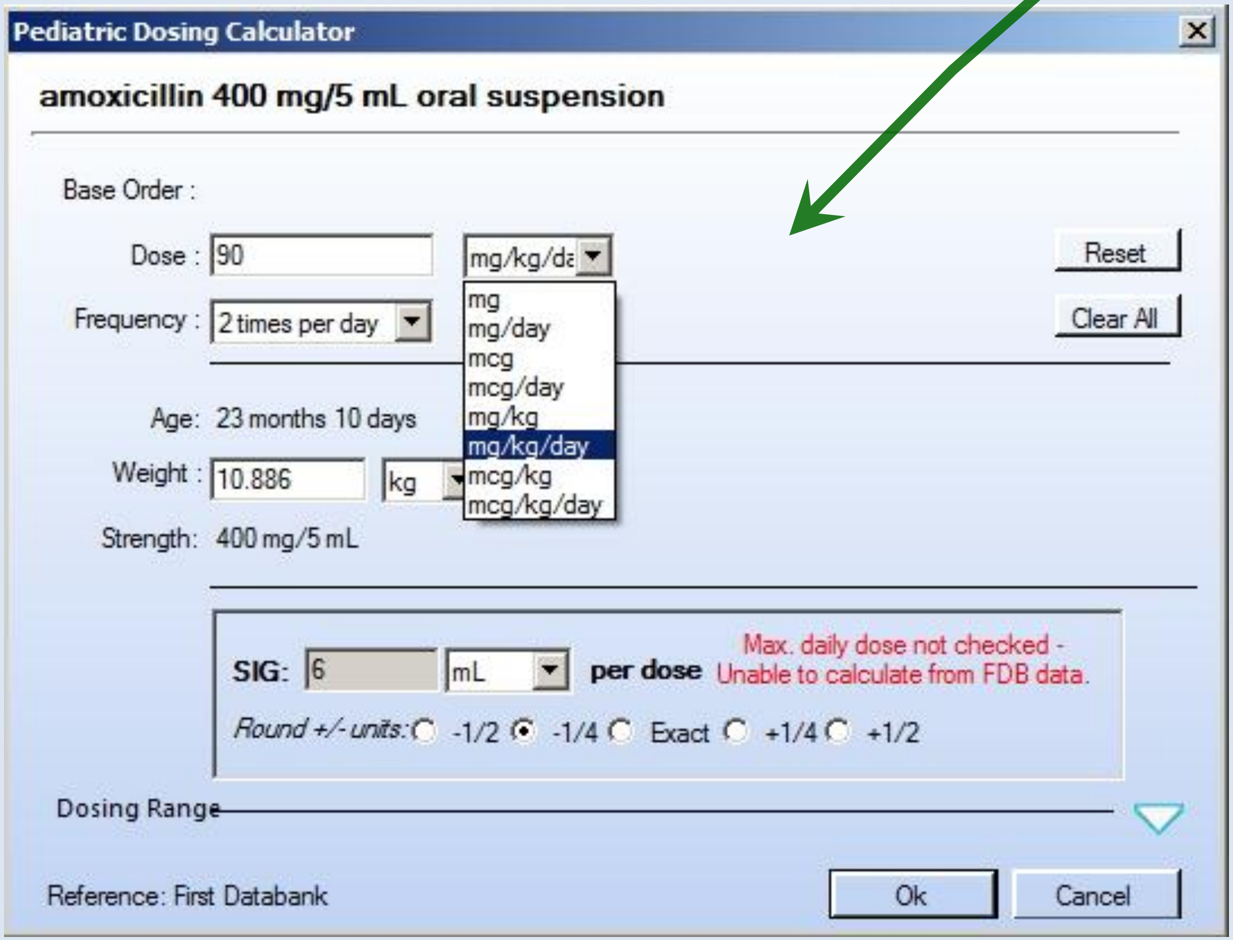
Many of these options are also available when you save Medication Favorites.

You see a variety of recommended weight-based doses.



Or, if preferred, you can calculate a dose using weight. Click Calculator.

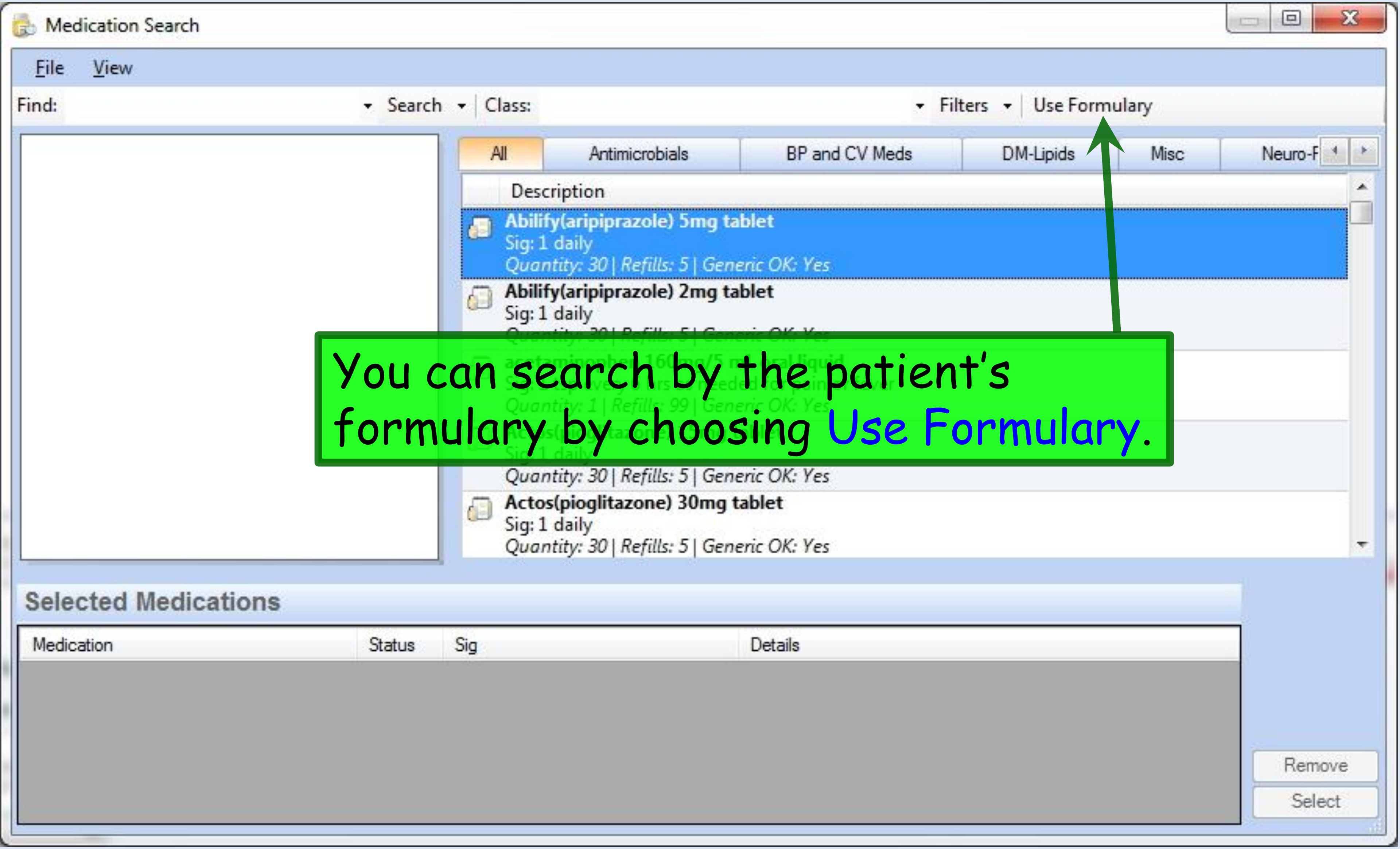
You have numerous options to calculate dosage.



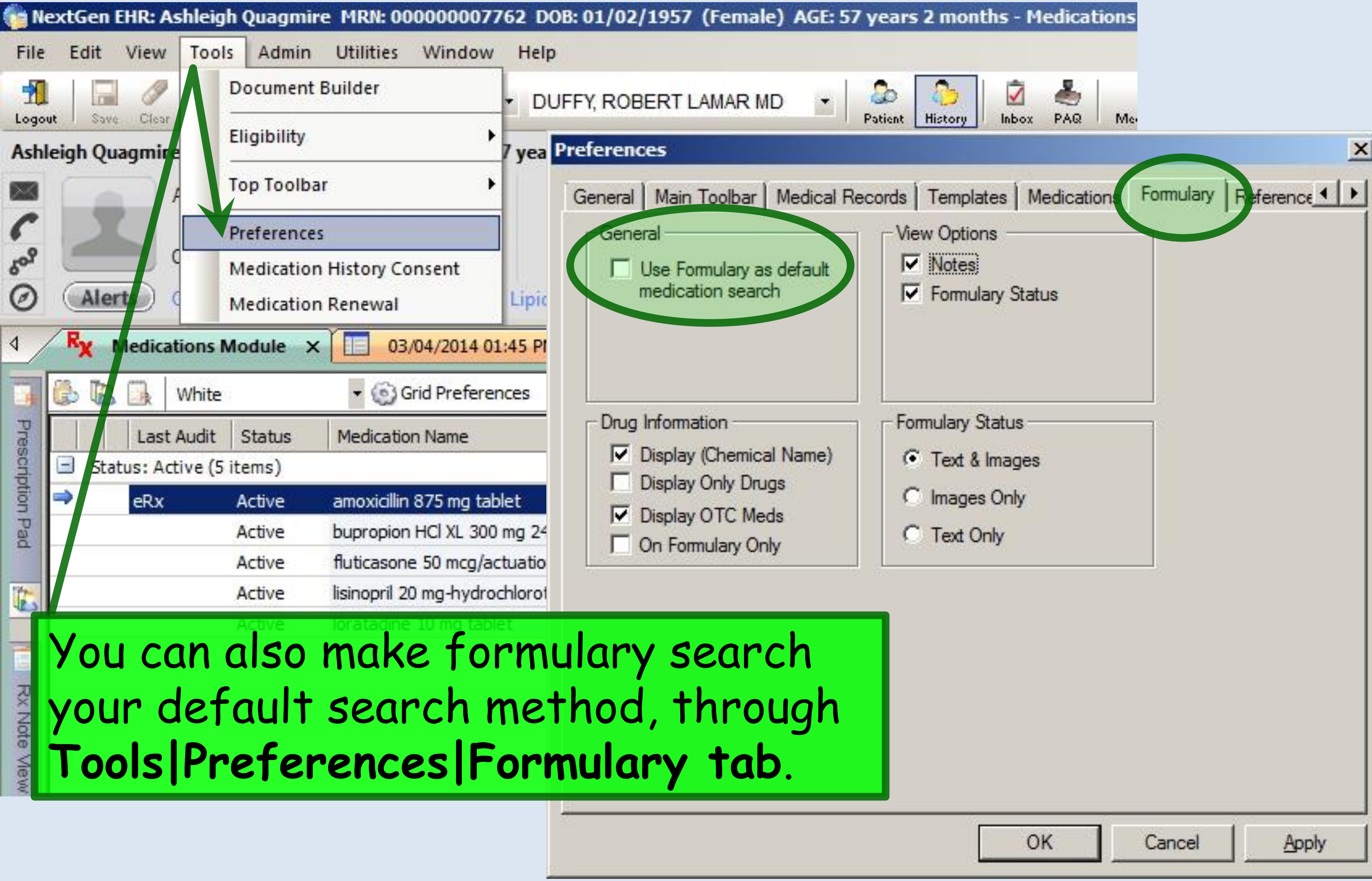
In this example, we've requested 90 mg/kg/day, divided BID, & allowed it to round off to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ mL.

Searching by Formulary

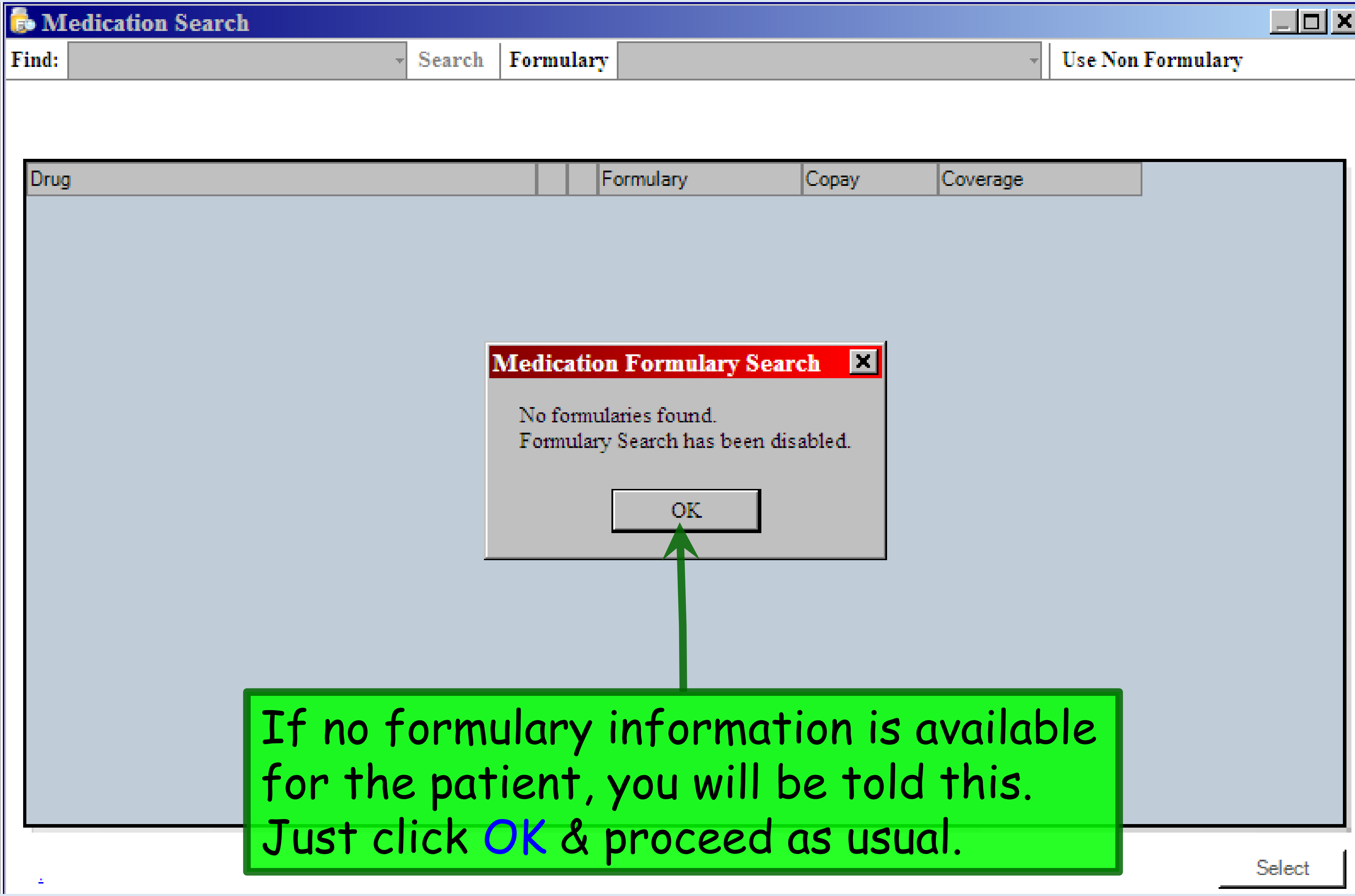
The methods & caveats of formulary-specific medication searches.



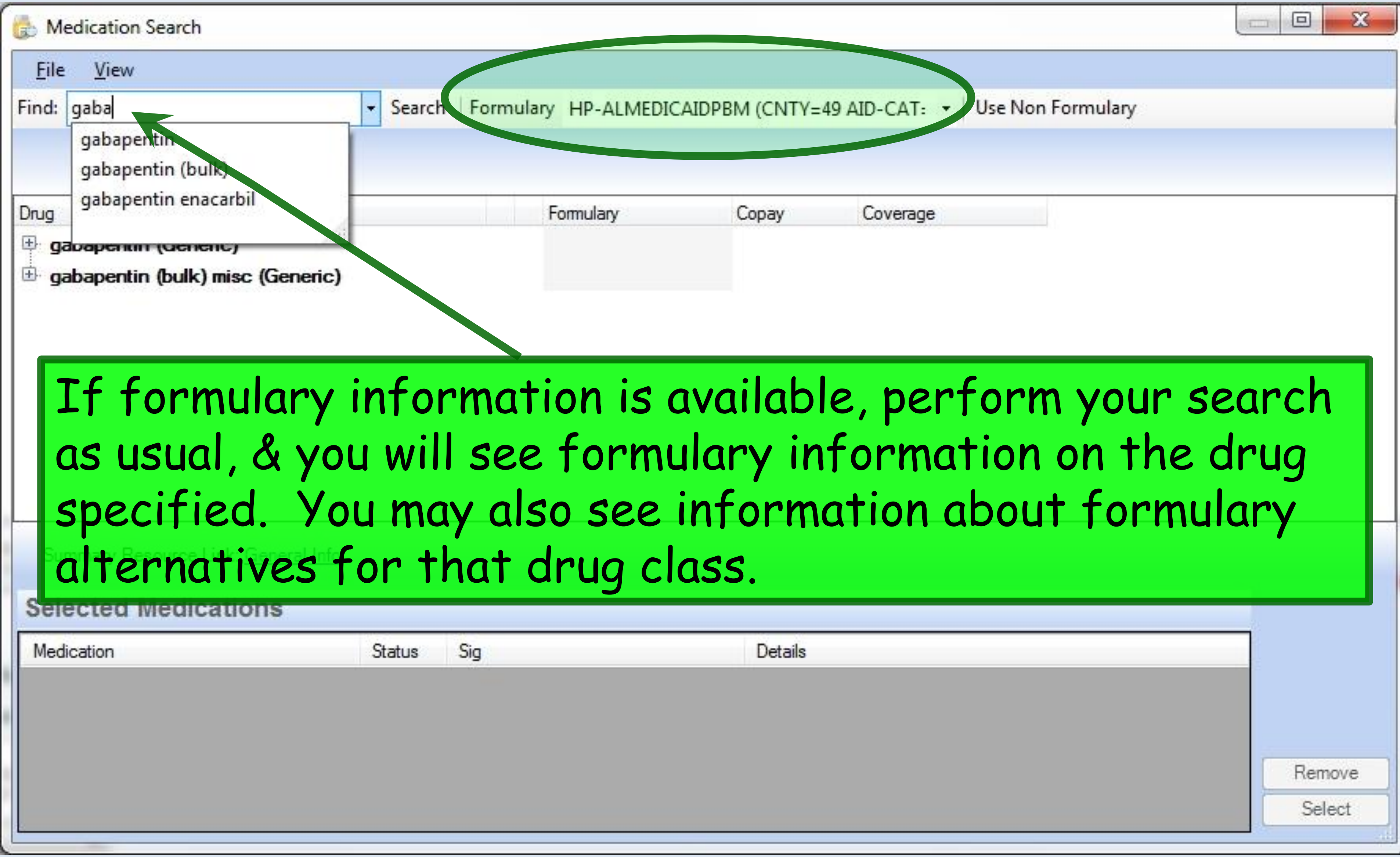
You can search by the patient's formulary by choosing Use Formulary.



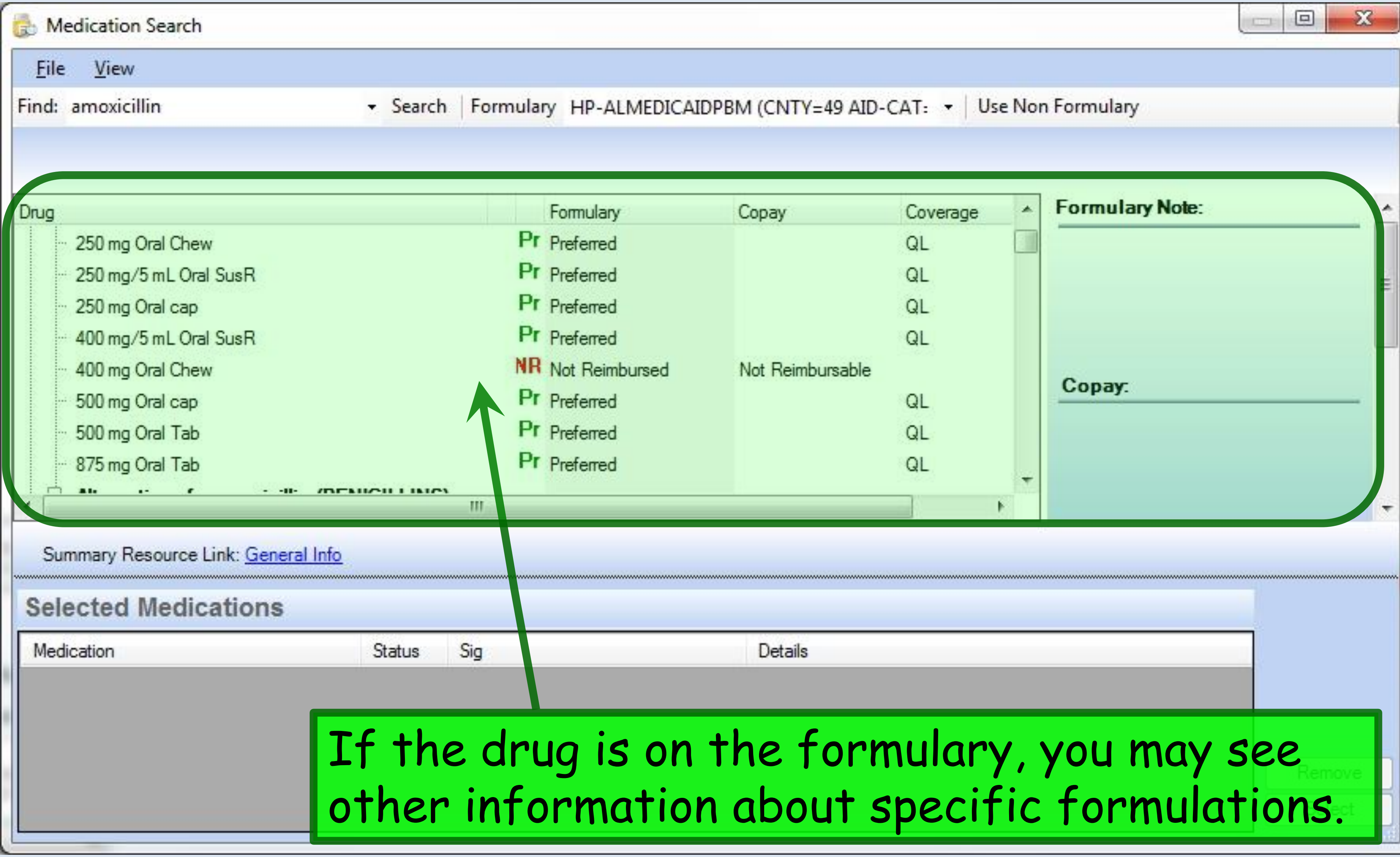
You can also make formulary search your default search method, through **Tools|Preferences|Formulary tab.**



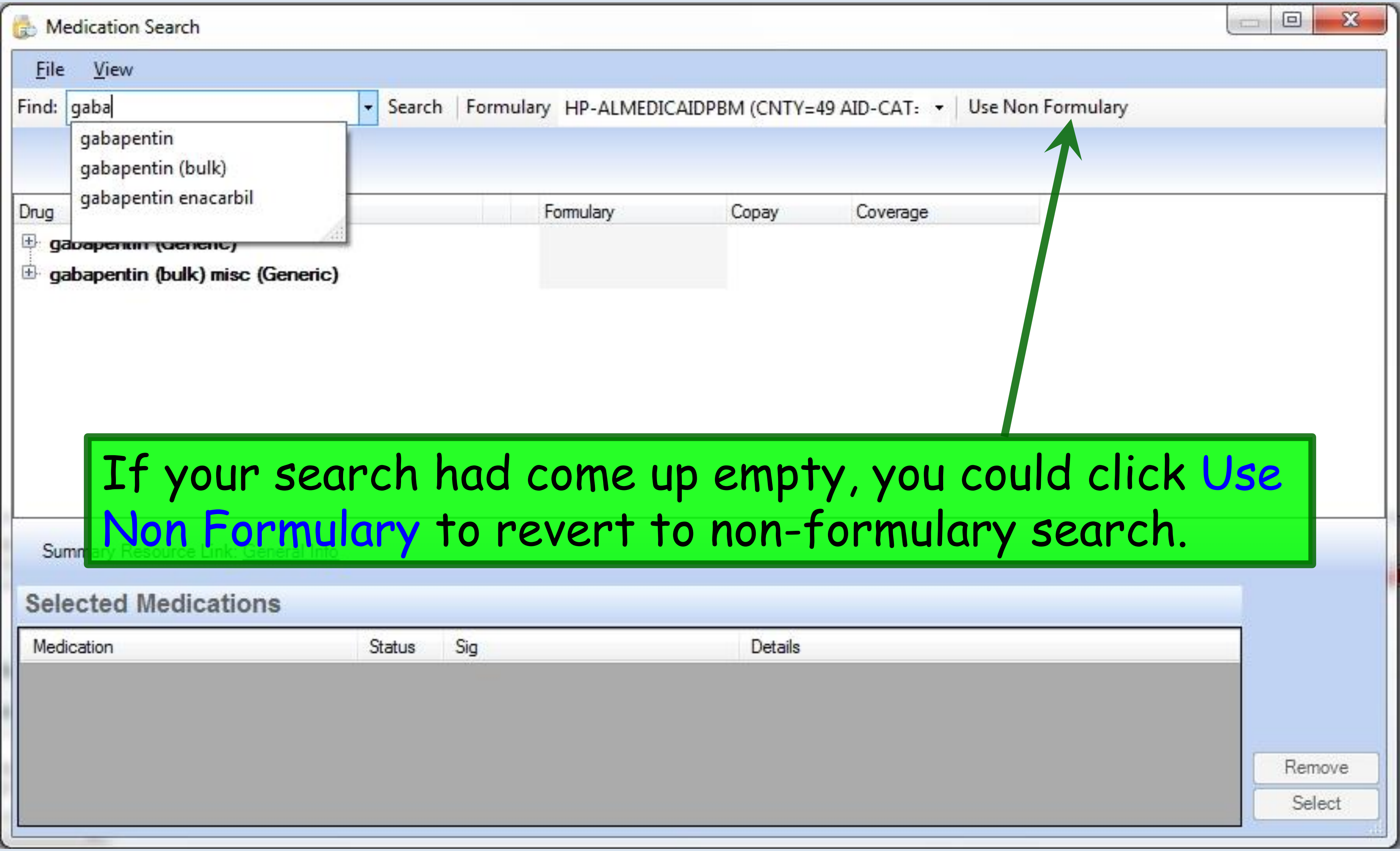
If no formulary information is available for the patient, you will be told this. Just click OK & proceed as usual.



If formulary information is available, perform your search as usual, & you will see formulary information on the drug specified. You may also see information about formulary alternatives for that drug class.

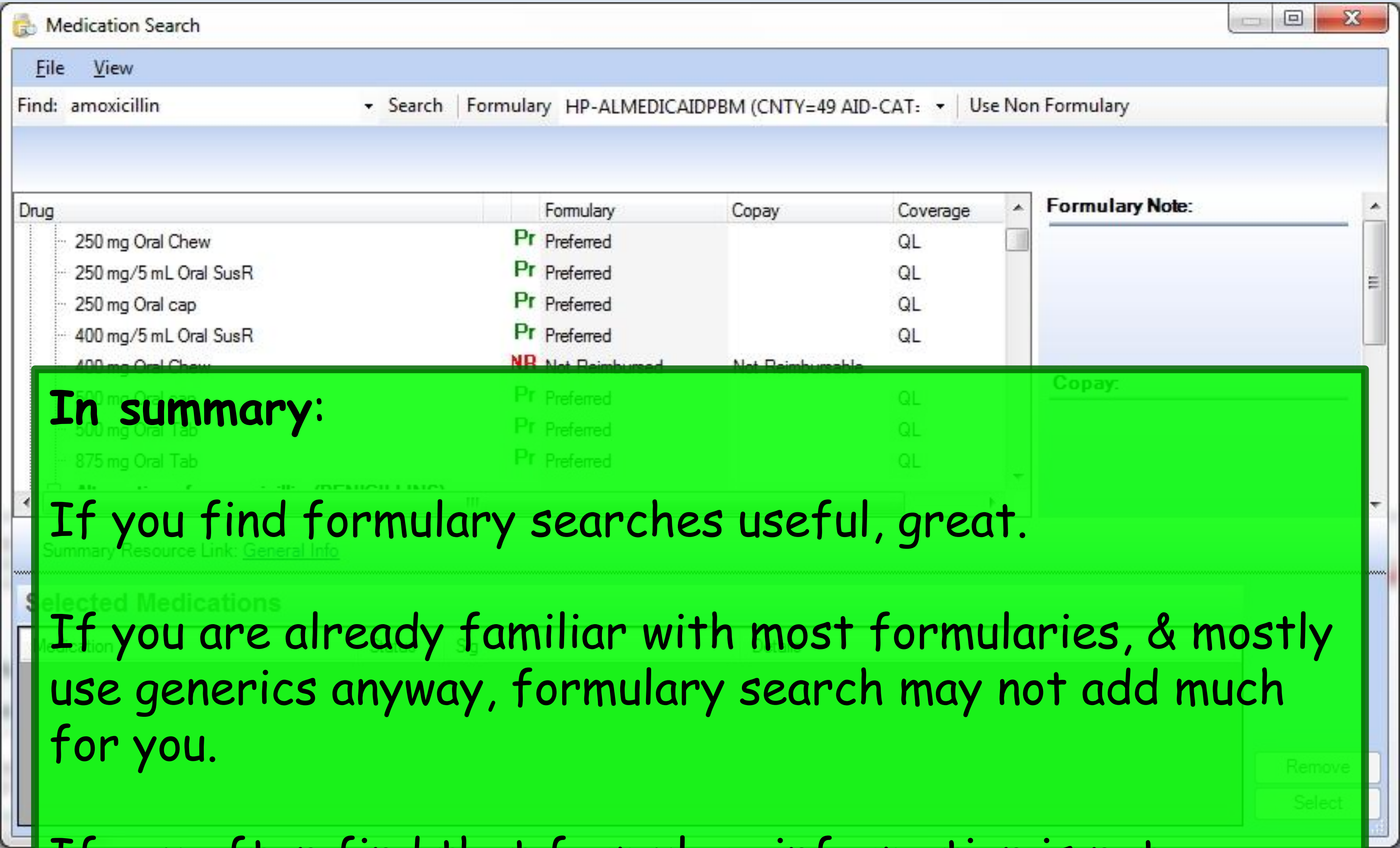


If the drug is on the formulary, you may see other information about specific formulations.


Medication Search
File
View
Find: gaba
Search
Formulary
HP-ALMEDICAIDPBM (CNTY=49 AID-CAT:
Use Non Formulary
gabapentin
gabapentin (bulk)
gabapentin enacarbil
Drug
Formulary
Copay
Coverage
gabapentin (bulk) misc (Generic)
Selected Medications
Medication
Status
Sig
Details
Remove
Select
If your search had come up empty, you could click Use Non Formulary to revert to non-formulary search.

Other notes on formulary searches:

1) Complete information may not display on all meds for all insurances. For example, it may show you the formulary tier, but not the specific copay.
2) Not all insurances publish formulary data in a manner compatible with NextGen's search methods—though that is getting better yearly.
3) Some formularies update so frequently (e.g., Alabama Medicaid), that it can be hard for things like EHRs, web sites, & smartphone apps to stay current.
4) If the patient is new, or new insurance information has been entered at that visit, formulary information may not be current, or available at all.



In summary:

If you find formulary searches useful, great.

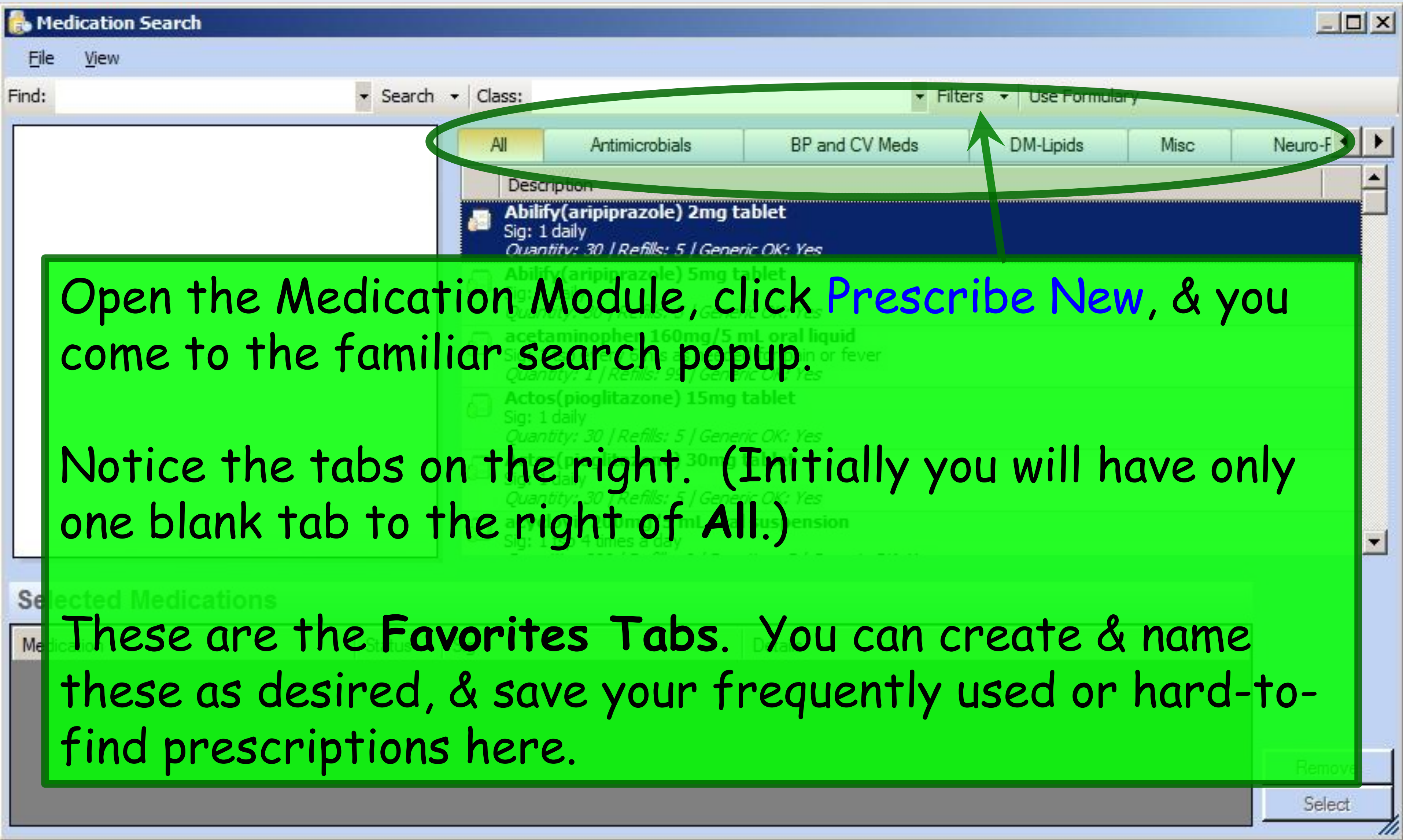
If you are already familiar with most formularies, & mostly use generics anyway, formulary search may not add much for you.

If you often find that formulary information is not available, such that you're often having to click through nag screens, don't use formulary search as your default.

Using Medication Favorites

Save Favorite Meds to give yourself a rapid way to select meds in the doses, amounts, & SIGs you commonly use.

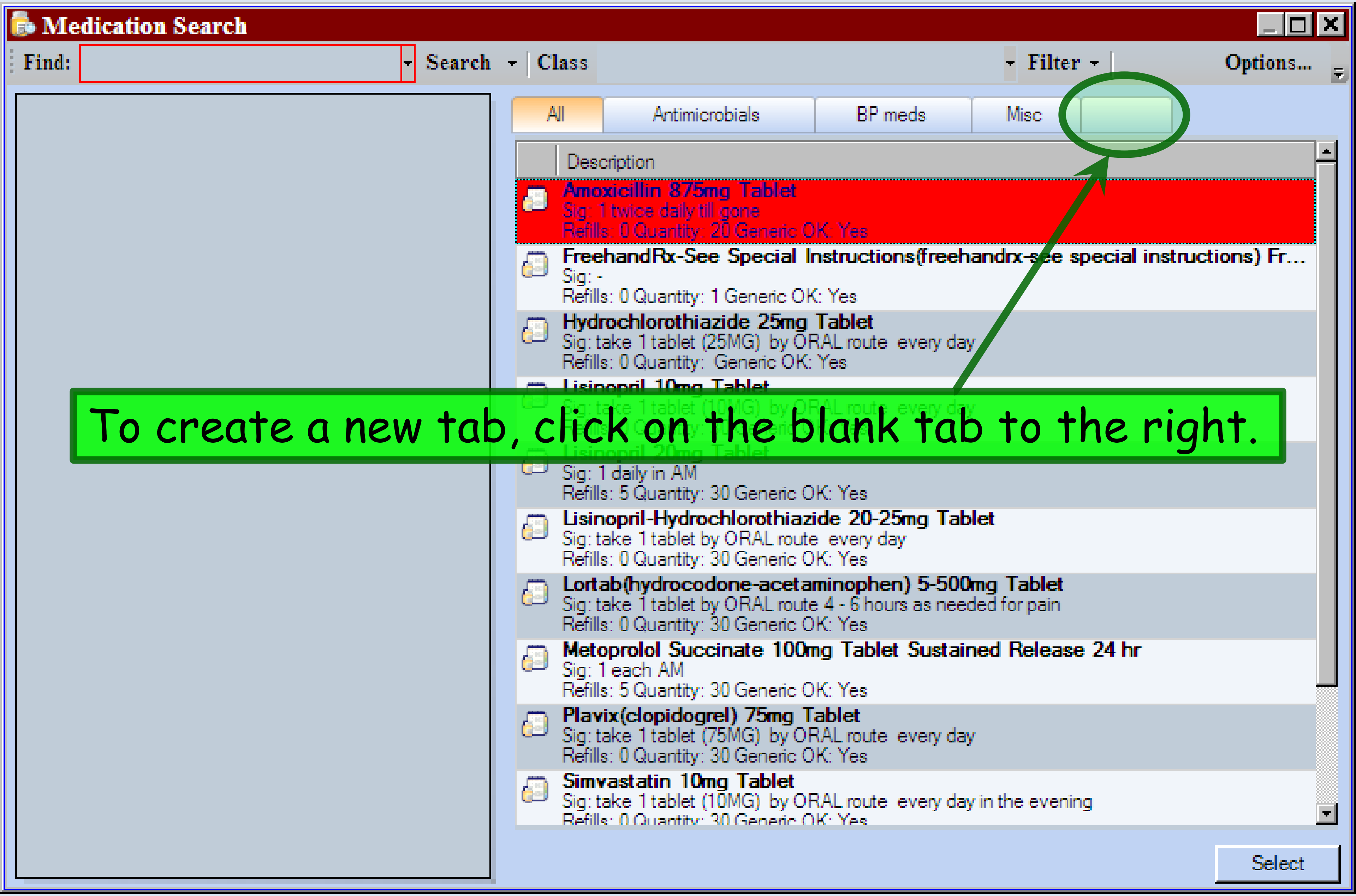
THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS YOU CAN SPEED YOUR WORKFLOW IN NEXTGEN.

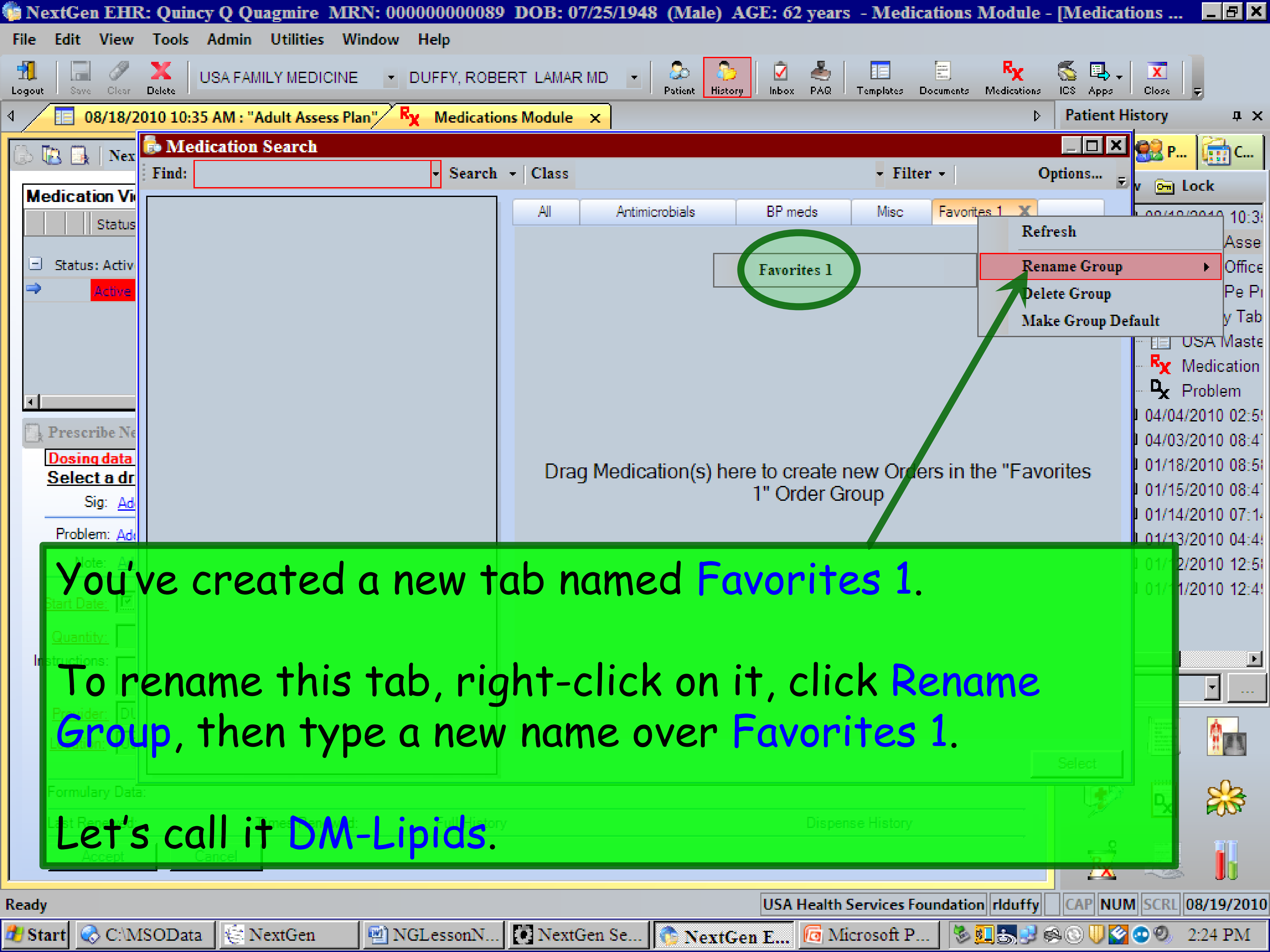


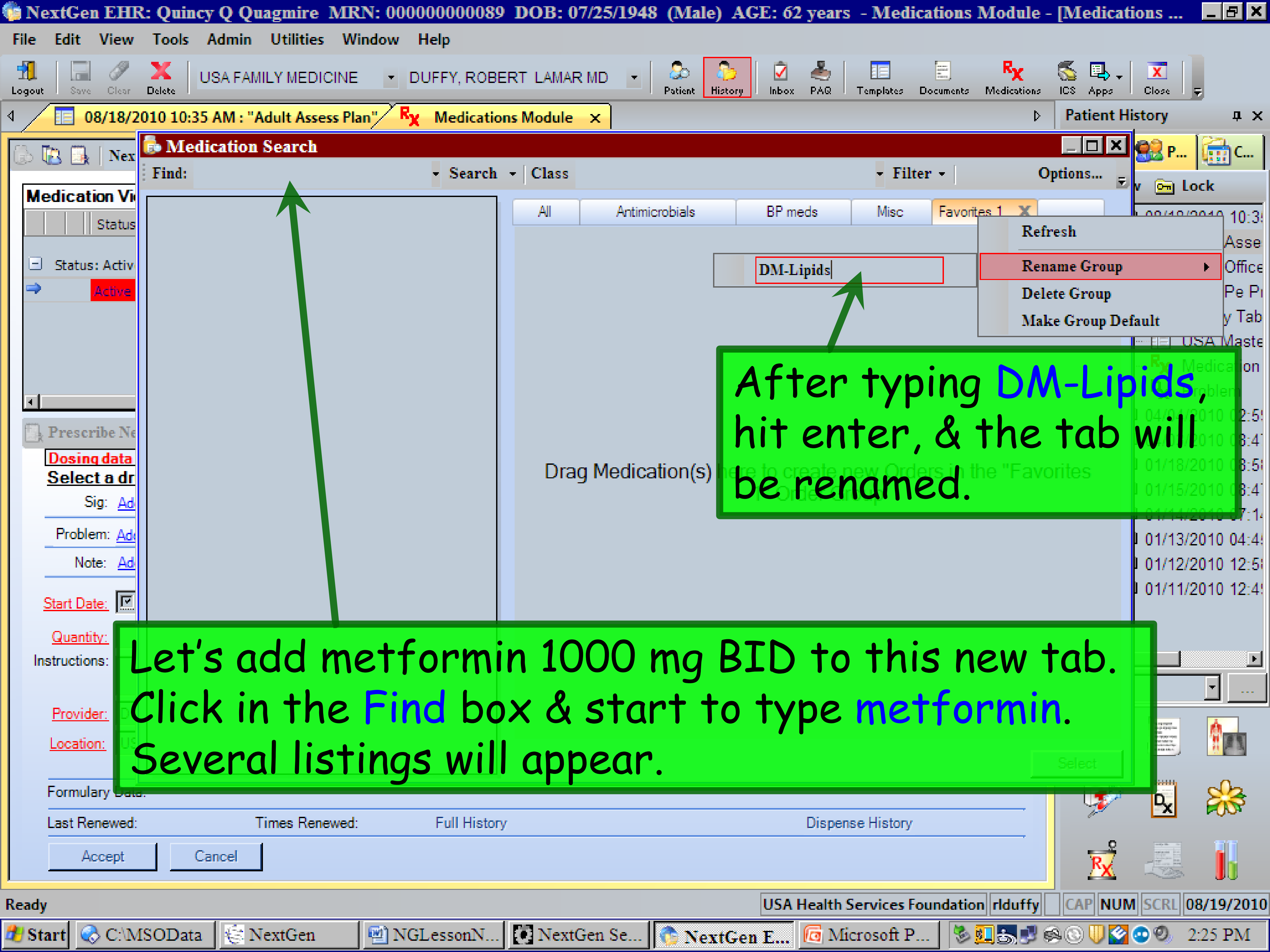
Open the Medication Module, click Prescribe New, & you come to the familiar search popup.

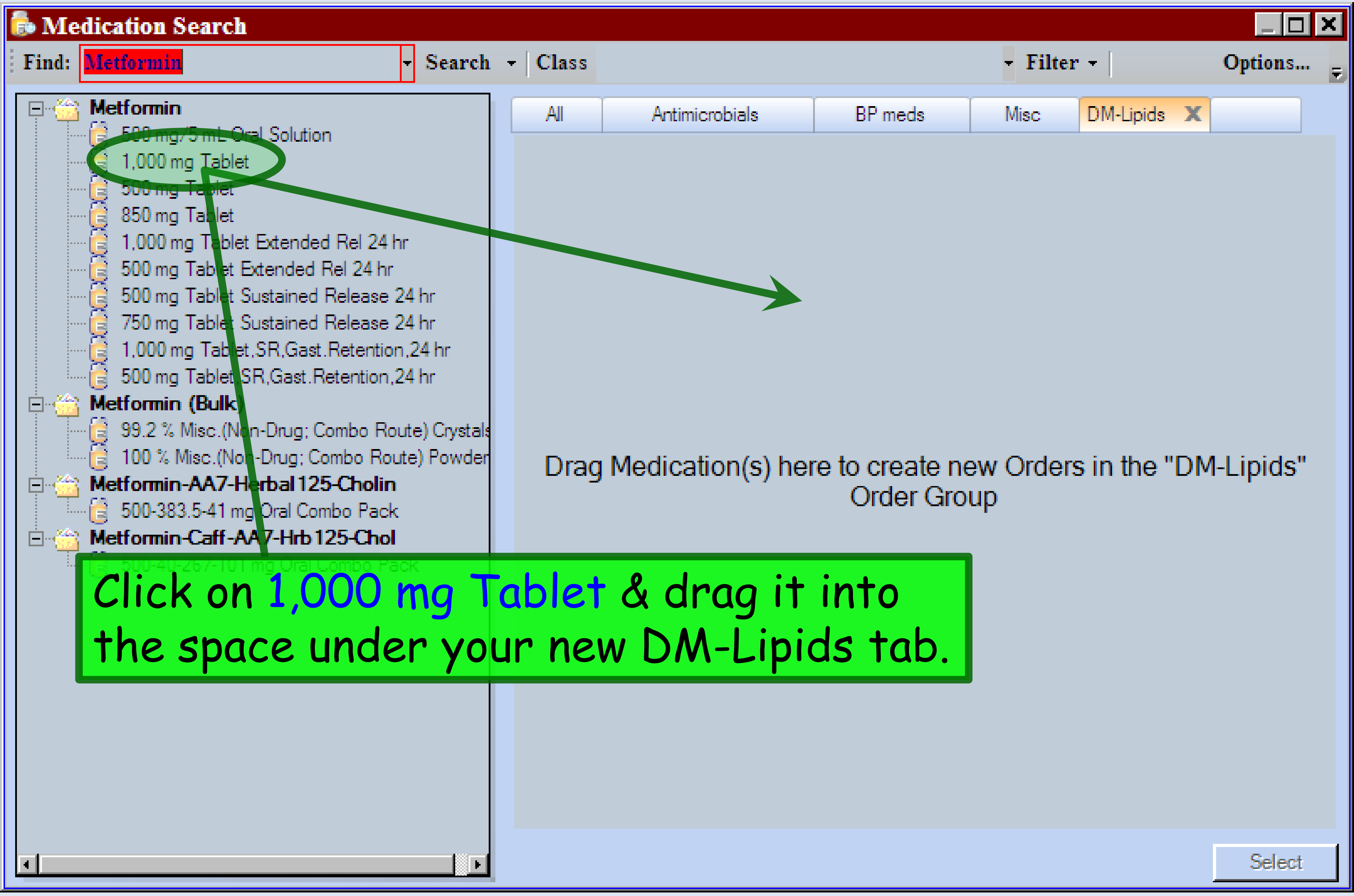
Notice the tabs on the right. (Initially you will have only one blank tab to the right of **All**.)

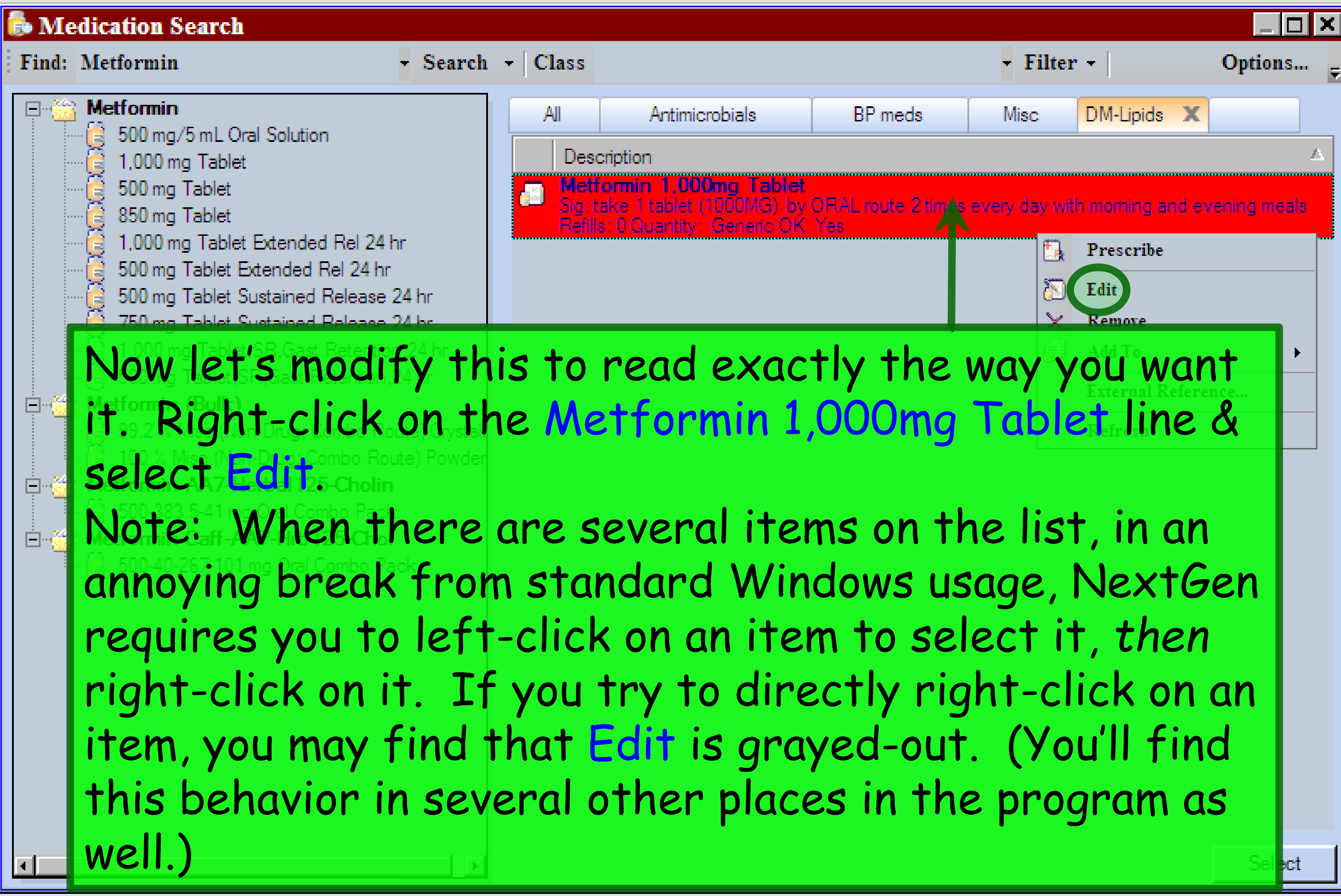
These are the **Favorites Tabs**. You can create & name these as desired, & save your frequently used or hard-to-find prescriptions here.


Medication Search
Find:
Search
Class
Filter
Options...
All
Antimicrobials
BP meds
Misc
Description
Amoxicillin 875mg Tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily till gone
Refills: 0 Quantity: 20 Generic OK: Yes
FreehandRx-See Special Instructions(freehandrx-see special instructions) Fr...
Sig: -
Refills: 0 Quantity: 1 Generic OK: Yes
Hydrochlorothiazide 25mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (25MG) by ORAL route every day
Refills: 0 Quantity: Generic OK: Yes
Sig: 1 daily in AM
Refills: 5 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Lisinopril-Hydrochlorothiazide 20-25mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by ORAL route every day
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Lortab(hydrocodone-acetaminophen) 5-500mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by ORAL route 4 - 6 hours as needed for pain
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Metoprolol Succinate 100mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
Sig: 1 each AM
Refills: 5 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Plavix(clopidogrel) 75mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (75MG) by ORAL route every day
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Simvastatin 10mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (10MG) by ORAL route every day in the evening
Select
To create a new tab, click on the blank tab to the right.


NextGen EHR: Quincy Q Quagmire MRN: 000000000089 DOB: 07/25/1948 (Male) AGE: 62 years - Medications Module - [Medications ...
Medication Search
Find:
Search
Class
Filter
Options...
All
Antimicrobials
BP meds
Misc
Favorites 1
Refresh
Rename Group
Delete Group
Make Group Default
Drag Medication(s) here to create new Orders in the "Favorites 1" Order Group
You've created a new tab named Favorites 1.
To rename this tab, right-click on it, click Rename Group, then type a new name over Favorites 1.
Let's call it DM-Lipids.

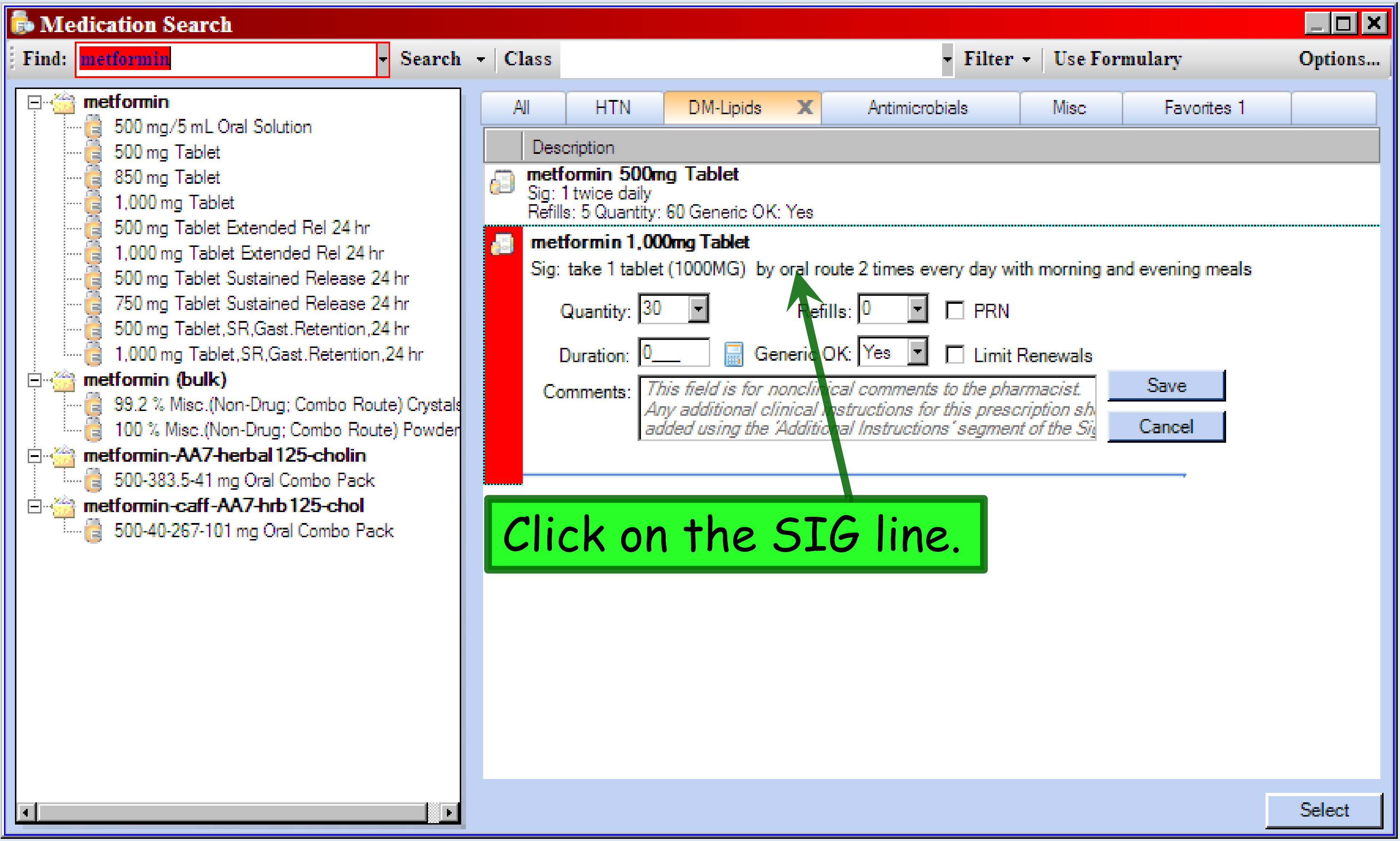

NextGen EHR: Quincy Q Quagmire MRN: 000000000089 DOB: 07/25/1948 (Male) AGE: 62 years - Medications Module - [Medications ...
Medication Search
Find:
Search
Class
Filter
Options...
All
Antimicrobials
BP meds
Misc
Favorites 1
DM-Lipids
Refresh
Rename Group
Delete Group
Make Group Default
Drag Medication(s) here to create new Orders in the "Favorites 1" Order Group
After typing DM-Lipids, hit enter, & the tab will be renamed.
Let's add metformin 1000 mg BID to this new tab. Click in the Find box & start to type metformin. Several listings will appear.
Accept
Cancel
Ready

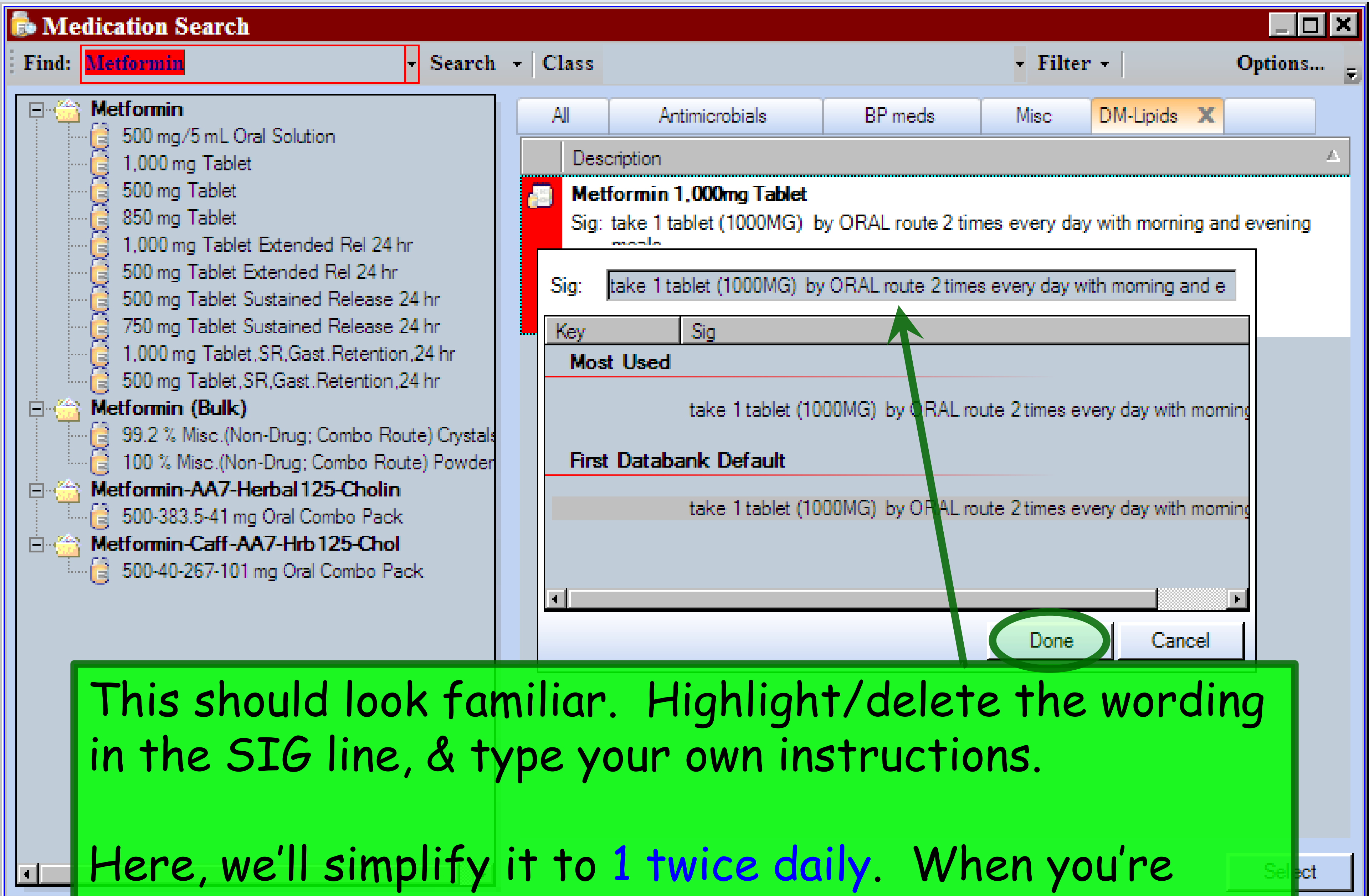

Medication Search
Find: Metformin
Search
Class
Filter
Options...
Metformin
500 mg/5 mL Oral Solution
1,000 mg Tablet
500 mg Tablet
850 mg Tablet
1,000 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
500 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
500 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
750 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
1,000 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
500 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
Metformin (Bulk)
99.2 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Crystals
100 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Powder
Metformin-AA7-Herbal 125-Cholin
500-383.5-41 mg Oral Combo Pack
Metformin-Caff-AA7-Hrb 125-Chol
All
Antimicrobials
BP meds
Misc
DM-Lipids
Drag Medication(s) here to create new Orders in the "DM-Lipids" Order Group
Select
Click on 1,000 mg Tablet & drag it into the space under your new DM-Lipids tab.



Now let's modify this to read exactly the way you want it. Right-click on the Metformin 1,000mg Tablet line & select Edit.

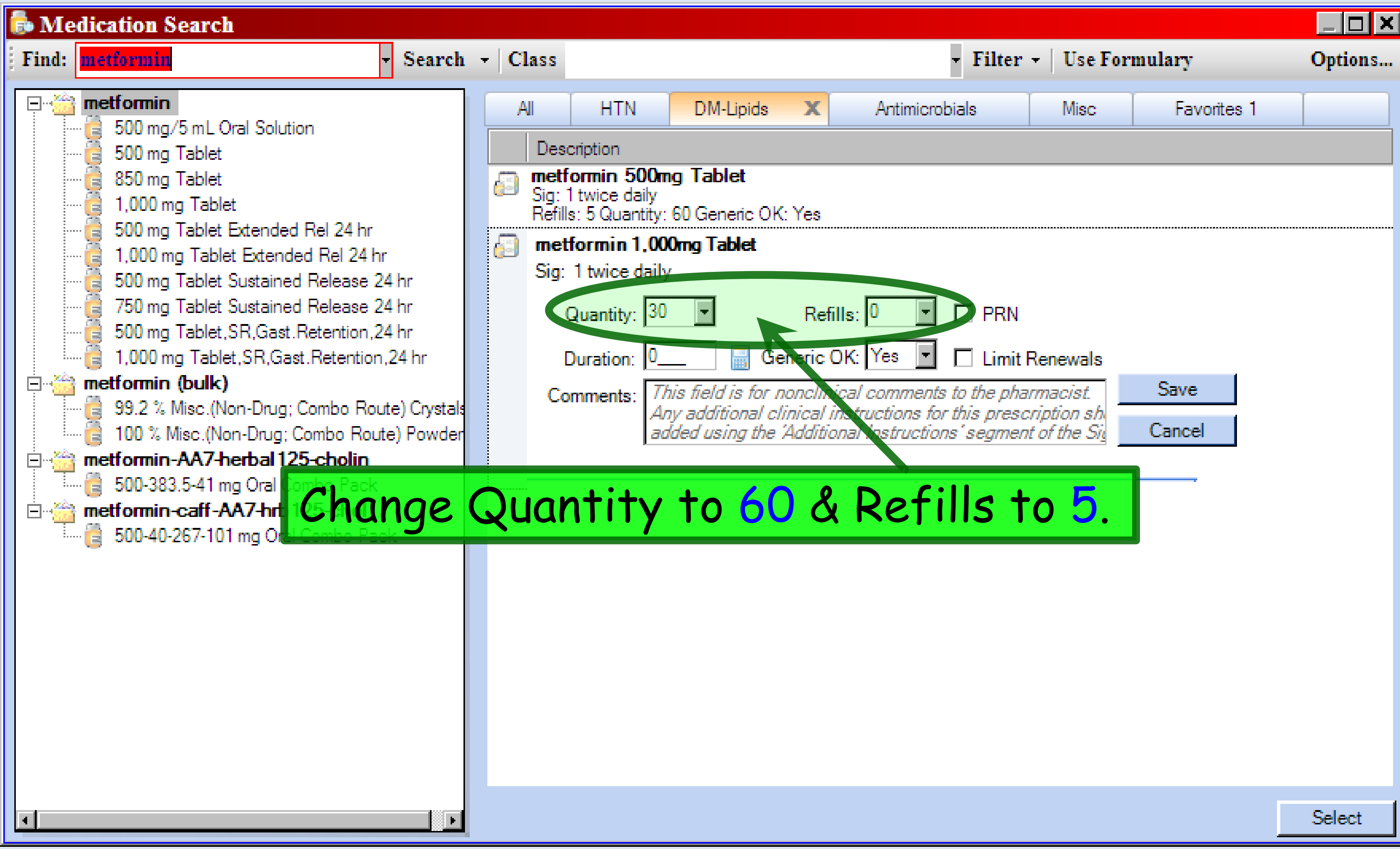
Note: When there are several items on the list, in an annoying break from standard Windows usage, NextGen requires you to left-click on an item to select it, *then* right-click on it. If you try to directly right-click on an item, you may find that Edit is grayed-out. (You'll find this behavior in several other places in the program as well.)

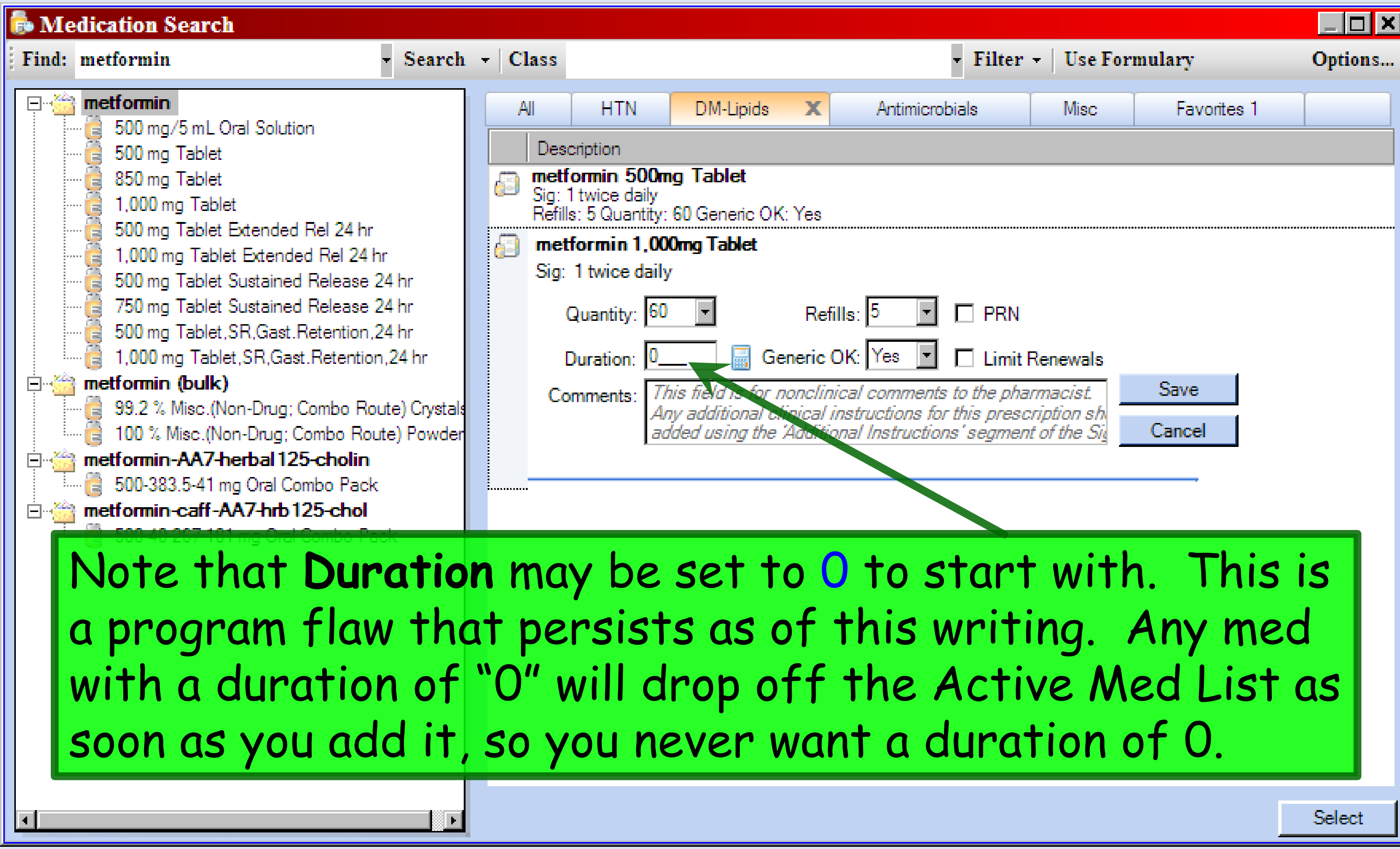

Medication Search
Find: metformin
Search
Class
Filter
Use Formulary
Options...
metformin
500 mg/5 mL Oral Solution
500 mg Tablet
850 mg Tablet
1,000 mg Tablet
500 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
1,000 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
500 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
750 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
500 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
1,000 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
metformin (bulk)
99.2 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Crystals
100 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Powder
metformin-AA7-herbal 125-cholin
500-383.5-41 mg Oral Combo Pack
metformin-caff-AA7-hrb 125-chol
500-40-267-101 mg Oral Combo Pack
All
HTN
DM-Lipids
Antimicrobials
Misc
Favorites 1
Description
metformin 500mg Tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily
Refills: 5 Quantity: 60 Generic OK: Yes
metformin 1,000mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (1000MG) by oral route 2 times every day with morning and evening meals
Quantity: 30
Refills: 0
PRN
Duration: 0
Generic OK: Yes
Limit Renewals
Comments:
Save
Cancel
Click on the SIG line.
Select



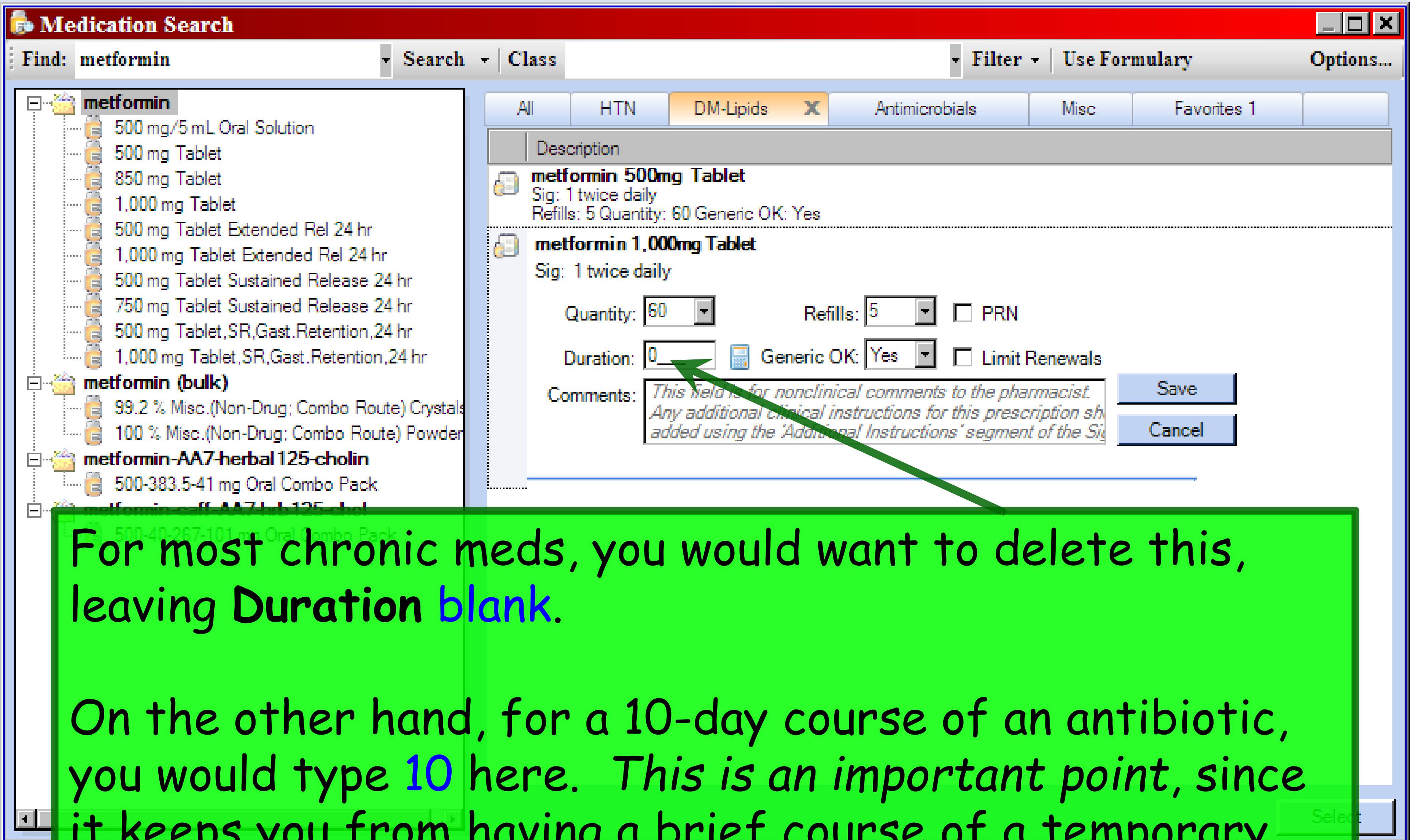
This should look familiar. Highlight/delete the wording in the SIG line, & type your own instructions.

Here, we'll simplify it to 1 twice daily. When you're done, click Done.


Medication Search
Find: metformin
Search
Class
Filter
Use Formulary
Options...
metformin
500 mg/5 mL Oral Solution
500 mg Tablet
850 mg Tablet
1,000 mg Tablet
500 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
1,000 mg Tablet Extended Rel 24 hr
500 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
750 mg Tablet Sustained Release 24 hr
500 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
1,000 mg Tablet,SR,Gast.Retention,24 hr
metformin (bulk)
99.2 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Crystals
100 % Misc.(Non-Drug; Combo Route) Powder
metformin-AA7-herbal 125-cholin
500-383.5-41 mg Oral Combo Pack
metformin-caff-AA7-hrb
500-40-267-101 mg Oral Combo Pack
All
HTN
DM-Lipids
Antimicrobials
Misc
Favorites 1
Description
metformin 500mg Tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily
Refills: 5 Quantity: 60 Generic OK: Yes
metformin 1,000mg Tablet
Sig: 1 twice daily
Quantity: 30
Refills: 0
PRN
Duration: 0
Generic OK: Yes
Limit Renewals
Comments:
Save
Cancel
Select
Change Quantity to 60 & Refills to 5.

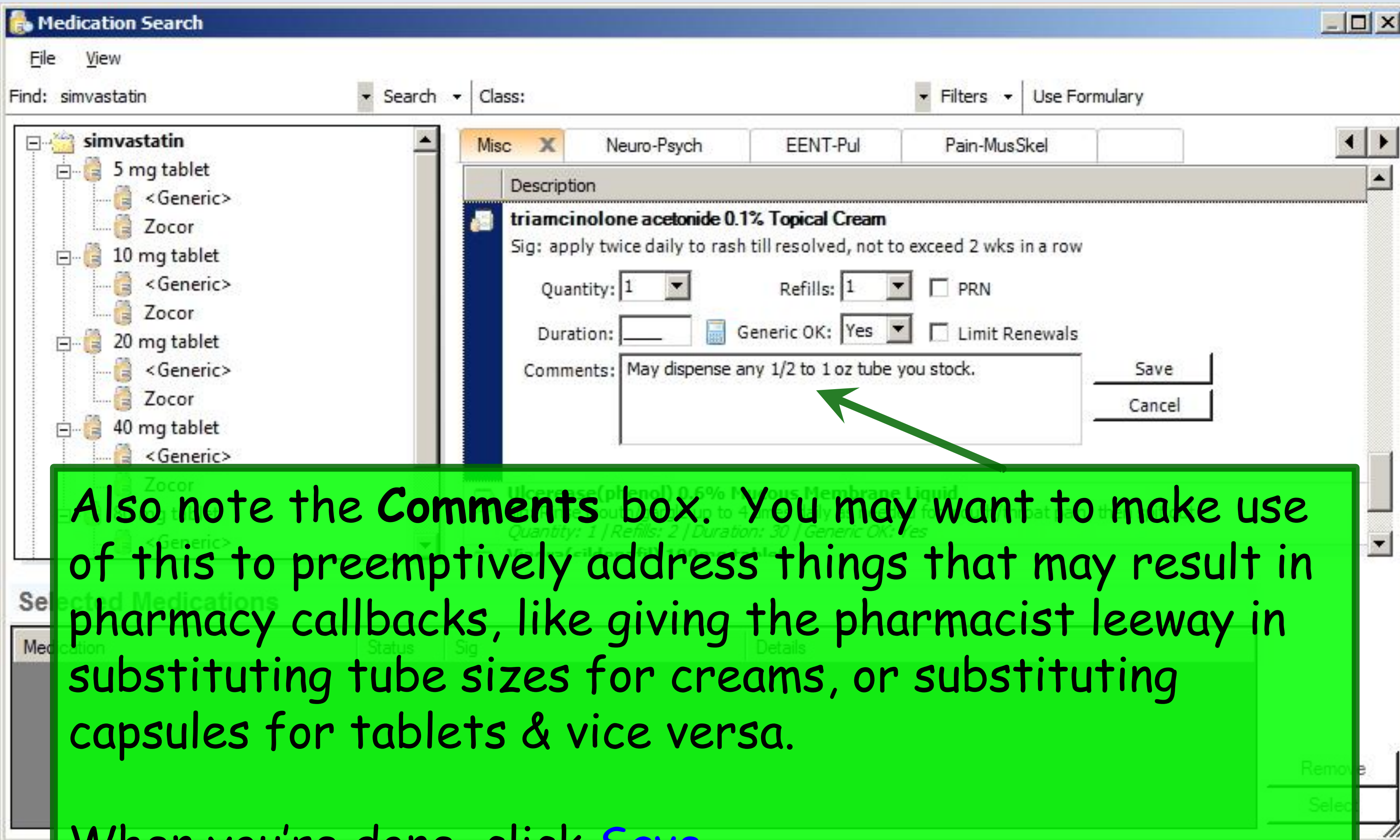


Note that **Duration** may be set to 0 to start with. This is a program flaw that persists as of this writing. Any med with a duration of "0" will drop off the Active Med List as soon as you add it, so you never want a duration of 0.



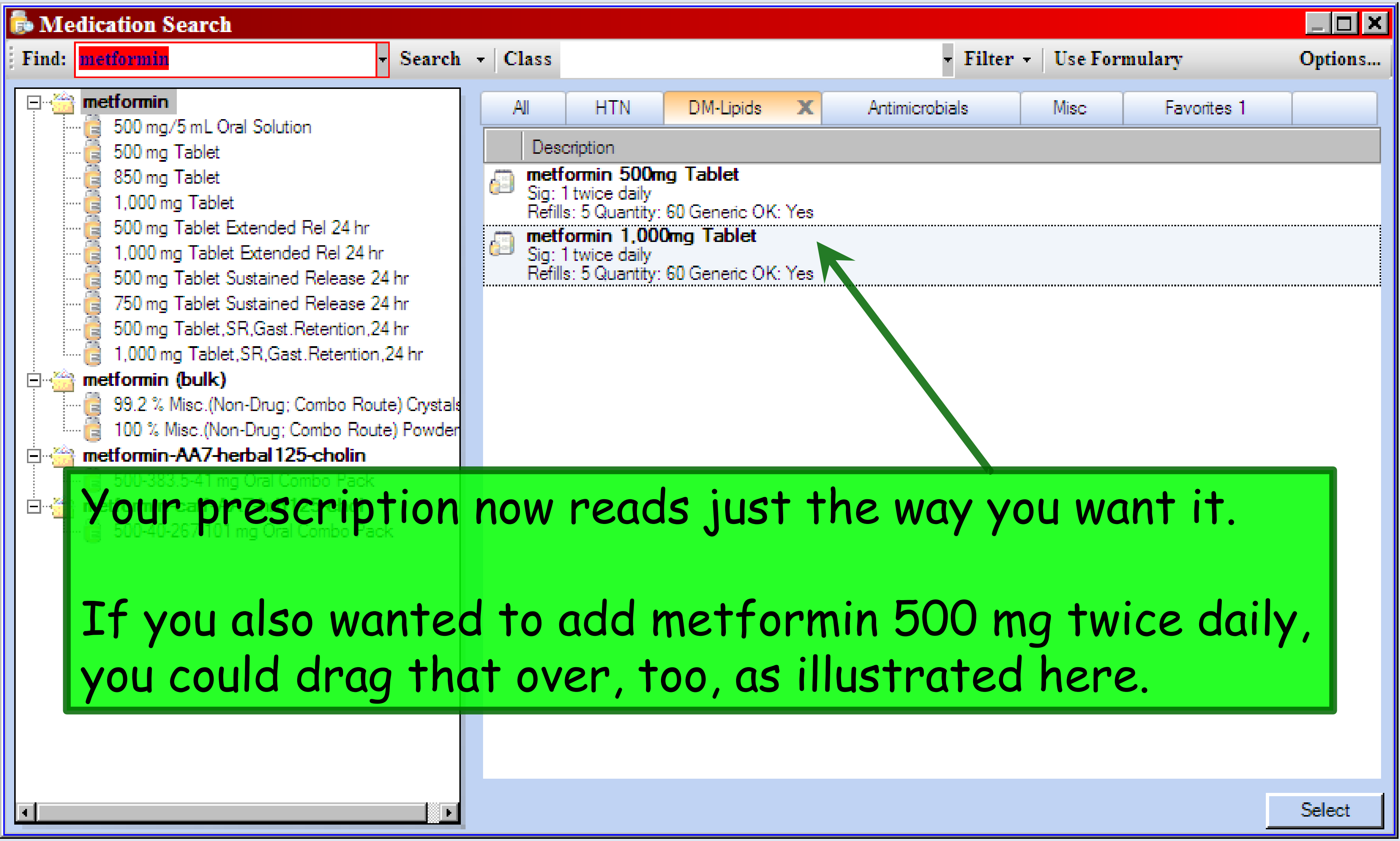
For most chronic meds, you would want to delete this, leaving **Duration** blank.

On the other hand, for a 10-day course of an antibiotic, you would type 10 here. *This is an important point*, since it keeps you from having a brief course of a temporary med persisting on the Active Med List forever.



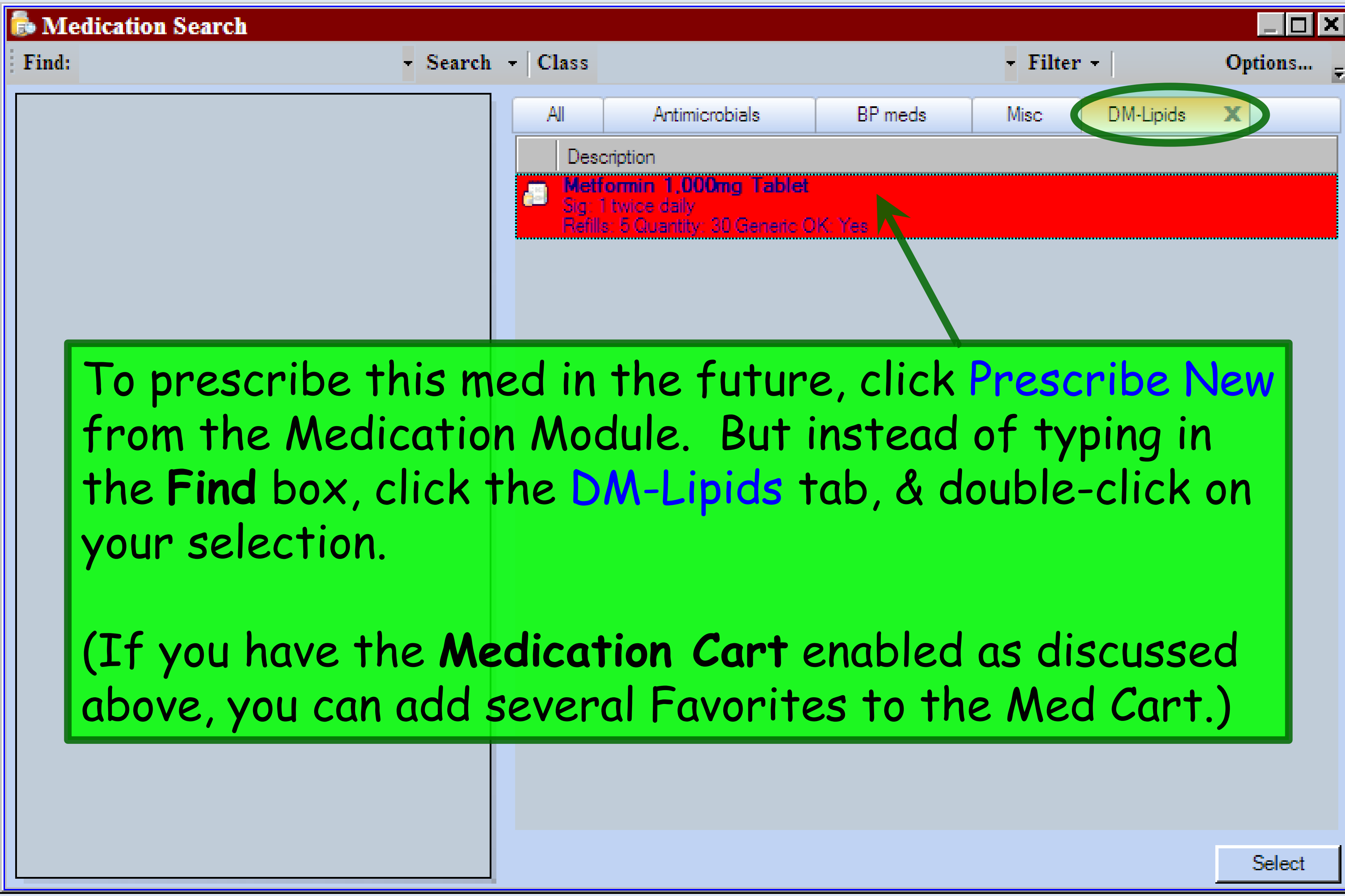
Also note the **Comments** box. You may want to make use of this to preemptively address things that may result in pharmacy callbacks, like giving the pharmacist leeway in substituting tube sizes for creams, or substituting capsules for tablets & vice versa.

When you're done, click Save.



Your prescription now reads just the way you want it.

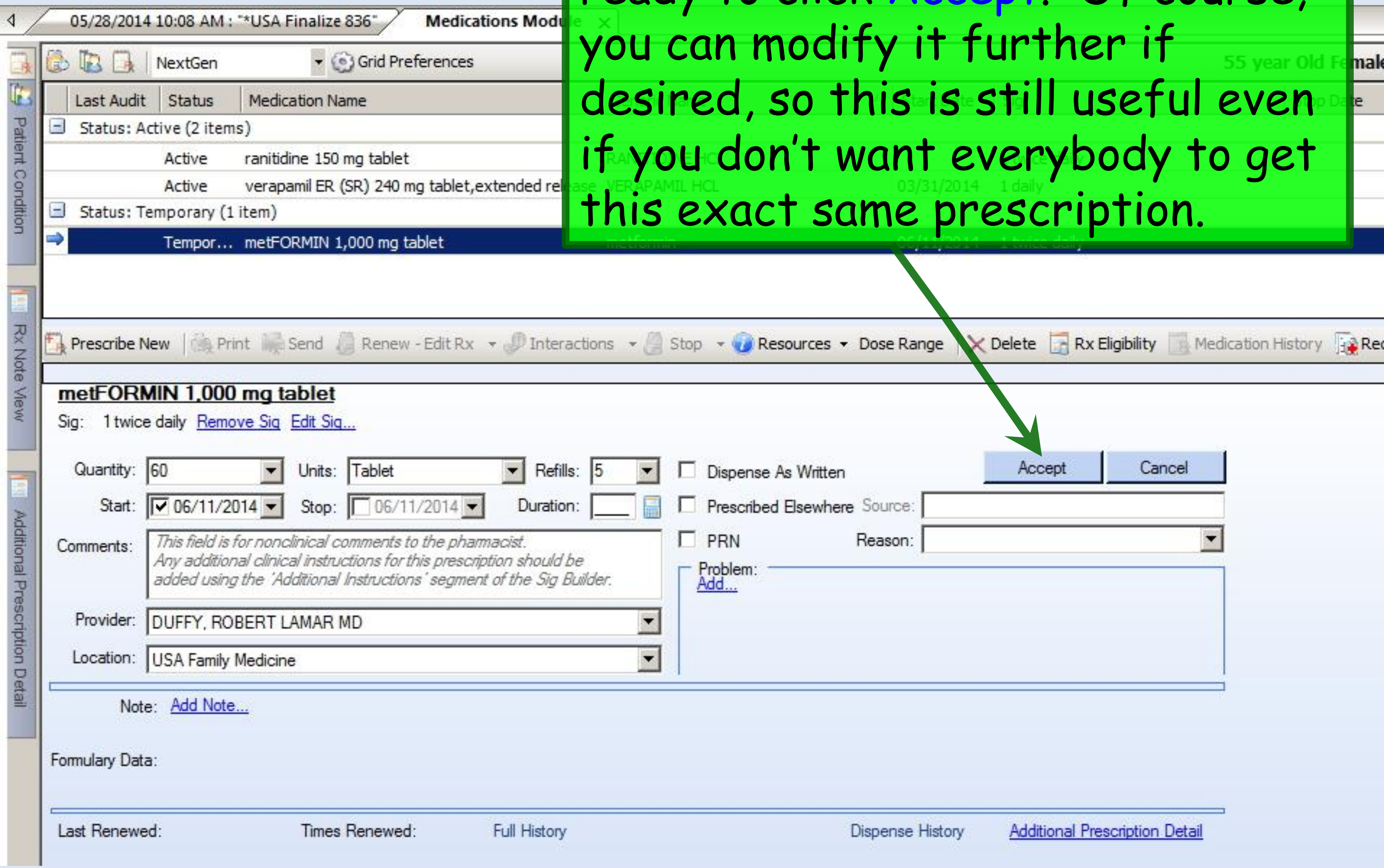
If you also wanted to add metformin 500 mg twice daily, you could drag that over, too, as illustrated here.



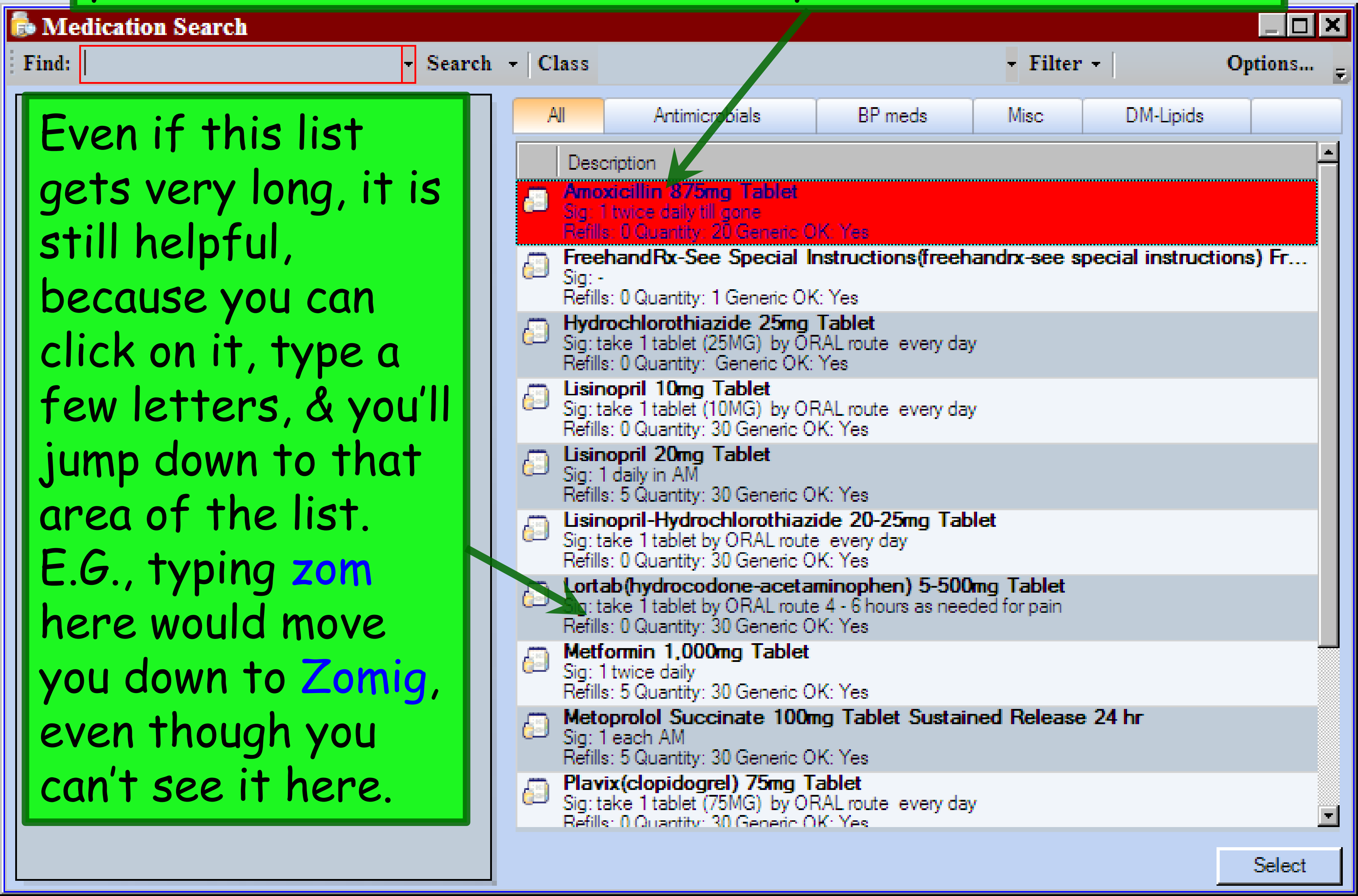
To prescribe this med in the future, click Prescribe New from the Medication Module. But instead of typing in the **Find** box, click the DM-Lipids tab, & double-click on your selection.

(If you have the **Medication Cart** enabled as discussed above, you can add several Favorites to the Med Cart.)

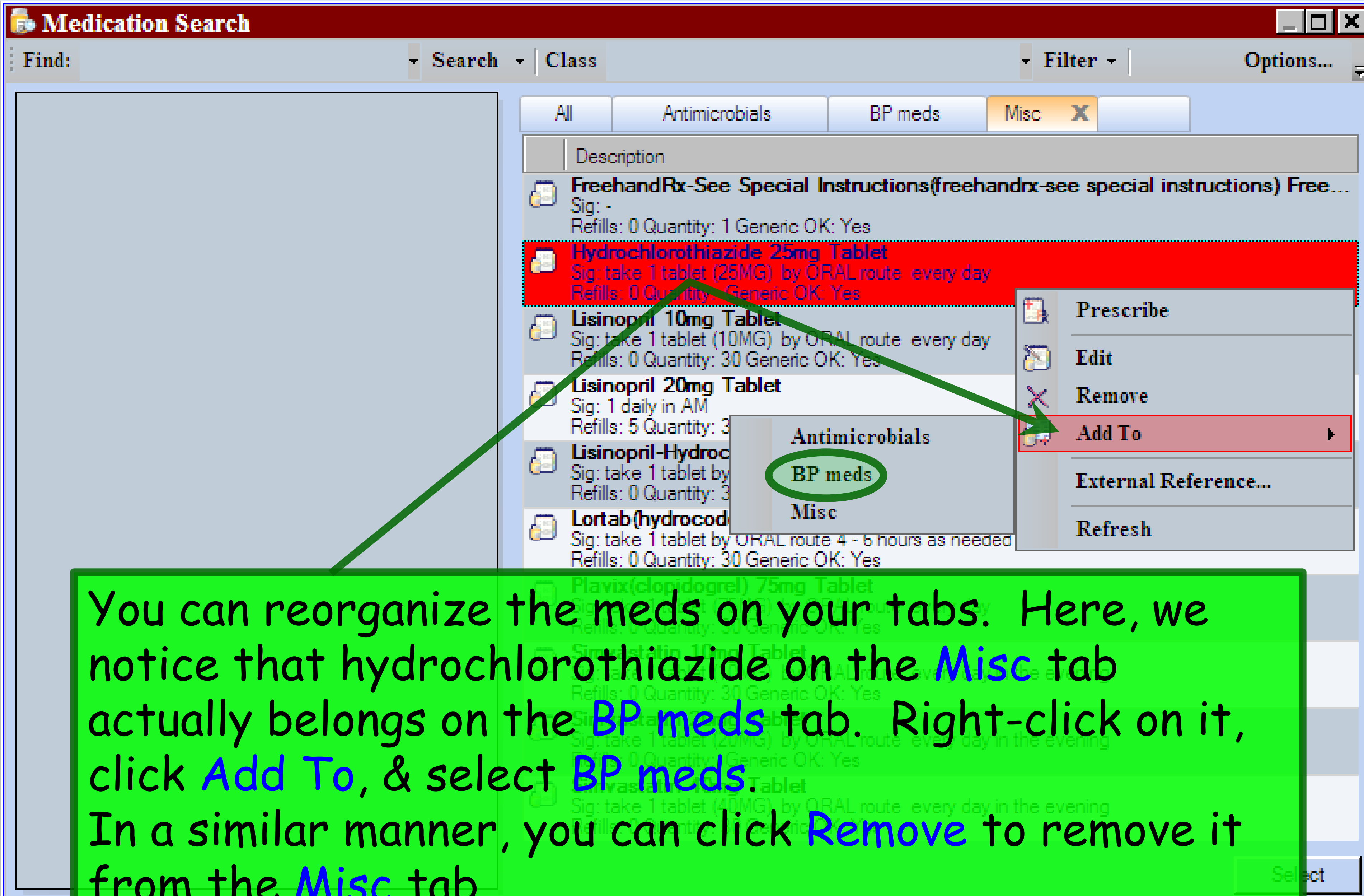
Your metformin is queued up, ready to click Accept. Of course, you can modify it further if desired, so this is still useful even if you don't want everybody to get this exact same prescription.



The first tab, labeled All, contains the meds from all of your tabs. You can create as many tabs as desired.

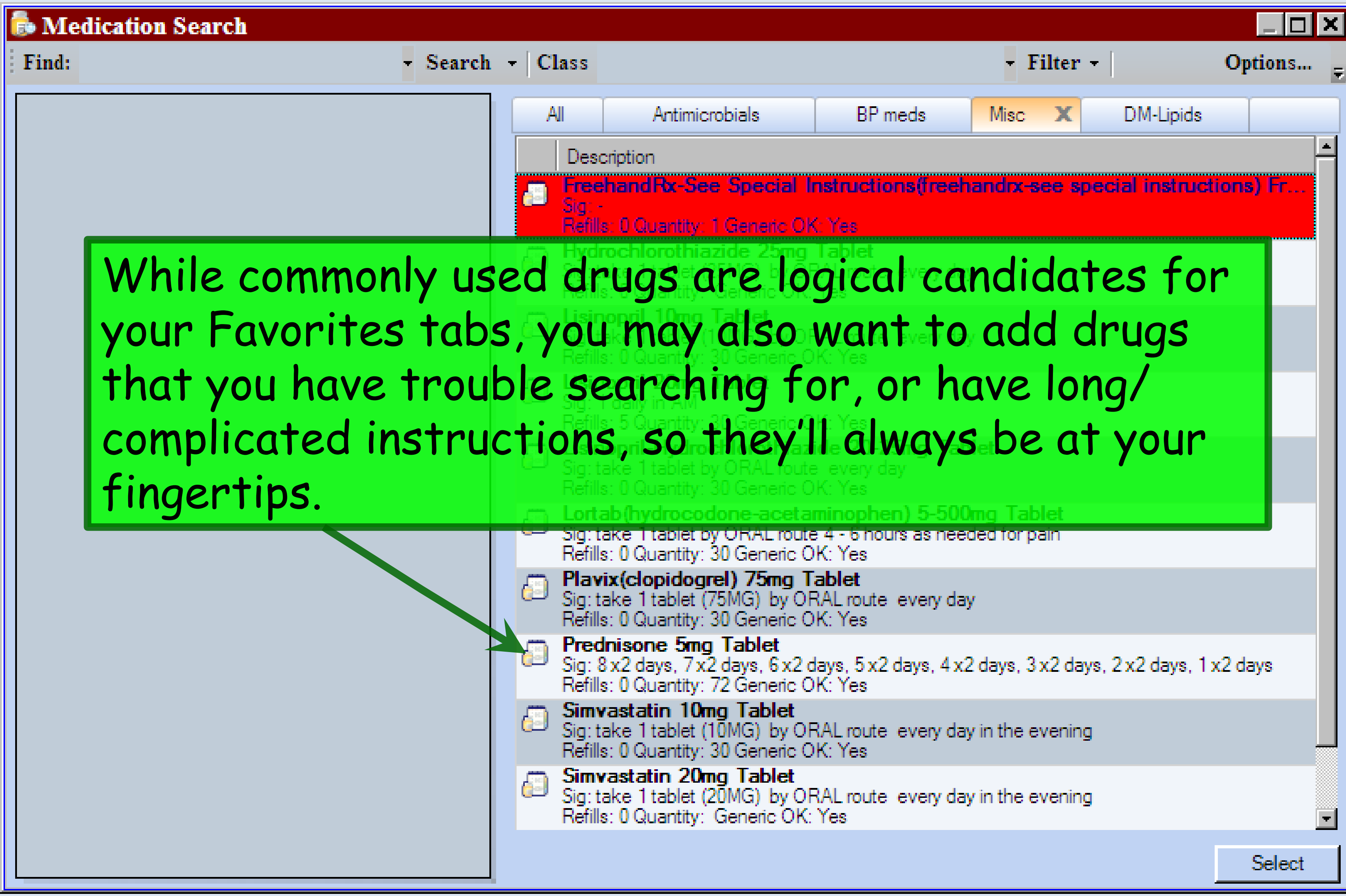


Even if this list gets very long, it is still helpful, because you can click on it, type a few letters, & you'll jump down to that area of the list. E.G., typing zom here would move you down to Zomig, even though you can't see it here.

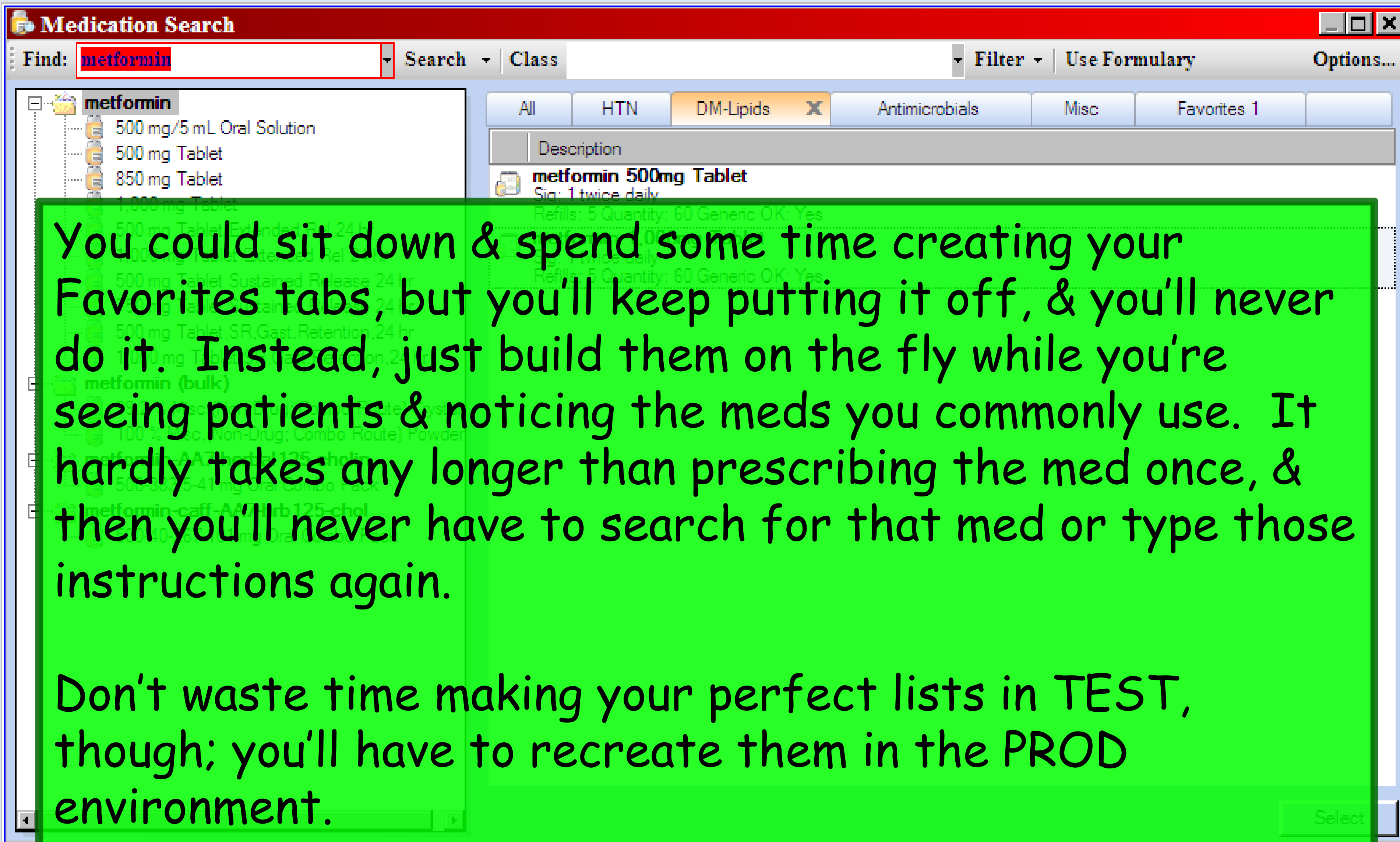


You can reorganize the meds on your tabs. Here, we notice that hydrochlorothiazide on the Misc tab actually belongs on the BP meds tab. Right-click on it, click Add To, & select BP meds.

In a similar manner, you can click Remove to remove it from the Misc tab.



While commonly used drugs are logical candidates for your Favorites tabs, you may also want to add drugs that you have trouble searching for, or have long/ complicated instructions, so they'll always be at your fingertips.
Medication Search
Find:
Search
Class
Filter
Options...
All
Antimicrobials
BP meds
Misc
DM-Lipids
Description
FreehandRx-See Special Instructions(freehandrx-see special instructions) Fr...
Sig: -
Refills: 0 Quantity: 1 Generic OK: Yes
Lortab(hydrocodone-acetaminophen) 5-500mg Tablet
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Plavix(clopidogrel) 75mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (75MG) by ORAL route every day
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Prednisone 5mg Tablet
Sig: 8 x2 days, 7 x2 days, 6 x2 days, 5 x2 days, 4 x2 days, 3 x2 days, 2 x2 days, 1 x2 days
Refills: 0 Quantity: 72 Generic OK: Yes
Simvastatin 10mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (10MG) by ORAL route every day in the evening
Refills: 0 Quantity: 30 Generic OK: Yes
Simvastatin 20mg Tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet (20MG) by ORAL route every day in the evening
Refills: 0 Quantity: Generic OK: Yes
Select



You could sit down & spend some time creating your Favorites tabs, but you'll keep putting it off, & you'll never do it. Instead, just build them on the fly while you're seeing patients & noticing the meds you commonly use. It hardly takes any longer than prescribing the med once, & then you'll never have to search for that med or type those instructions again.

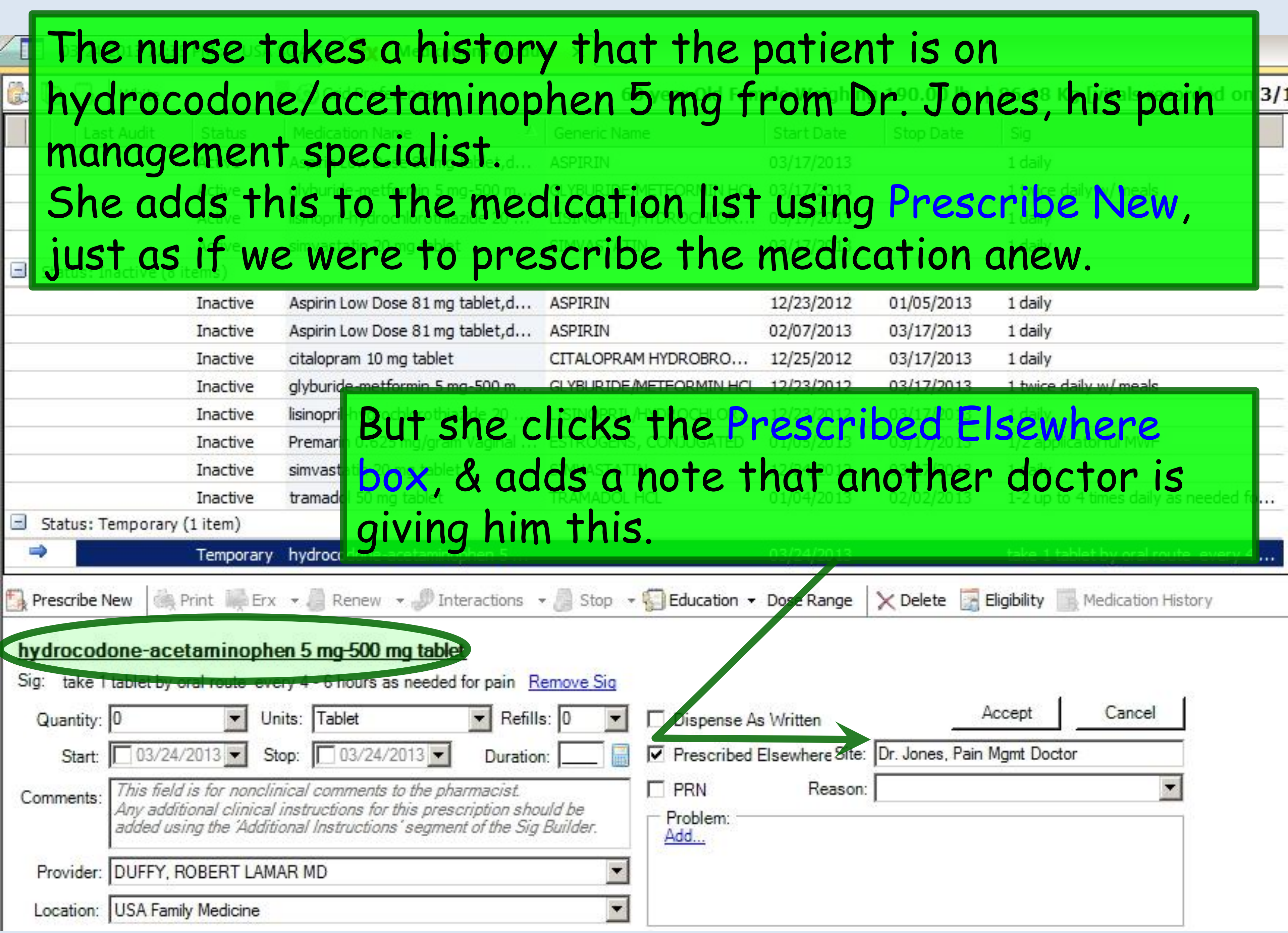
Don't waste time making your perfect lists in TEST, though; you'll have to recreate them in the PROD environment.

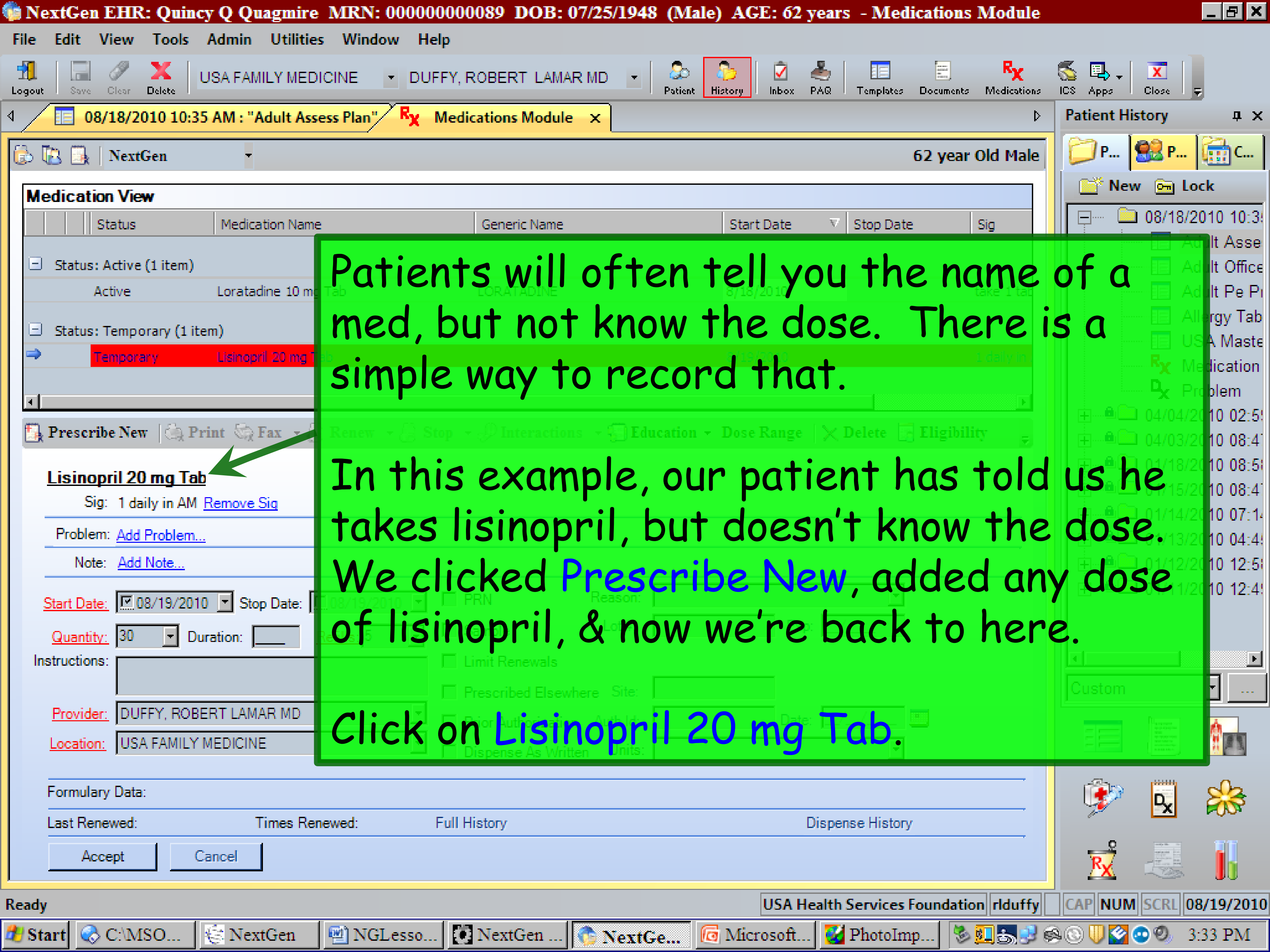
For some other tips & tricks you can do with Med Favorites, look at some of mini-lessons on the web site.

Medication Histories

The medication module is not only used for prescribing, but also for recording a patient's drug history.

Non-MD staff needs to understand this, & not be afraid of the Prescribe New button when recording drug histories.

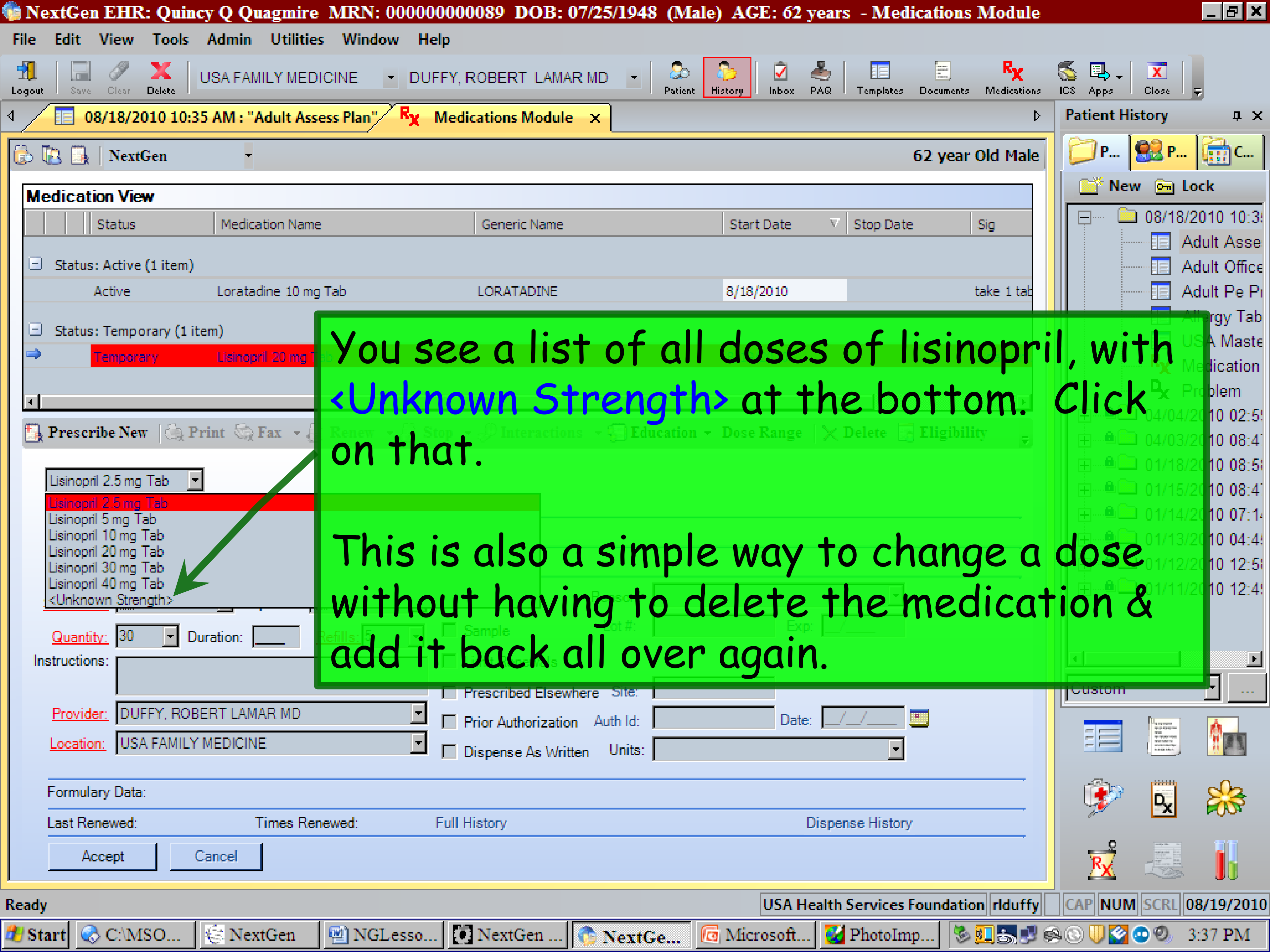

The nurse takes a history that the patient is on hydrocodone/acetaminophen 5 mg from Dr. Jones, his pain management specialist.
She adds this to the medication list using Prescribe New, just as if we were to prescribe the medication anew.
But she clicks the Prescribed Elsewhere box, & adds a note that another doctor is giving him this.
Inactive Aspirin Low Dose 81 mg tablet,d... ASPIRIN 12/23/2012 01/05/2013 1 daily
Inactive Aspirin Low Dose 81 mg tablet,d... ASPIRIN 02/07/2013 03/17/2013 1 daily
Inactive citalopram 10 mg tablet CITALOPRAM HYDROBRO... 12/25/2012 03/17/2013 1 daily
Status: Temporary (1 item)
Temporary
Prescribe New
Print
Erx
Renew
Interactions
Stop
Education
Dose Range
Delete
Eligibility
Medication History
hydrocodone-acetaminophen 5 mg-500 mg tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by oral route every 4 - 6 hours as needed for pain
Remove Sig
Quantity: 0
Units: Tablet
Refills: 0
Start: 03/24/2013
Stop: 03/24/2013
Duration:
Dispense As Written
Prescribed Elsewhere
Site: Dr. Jones, Pain Mgmt Doctor
Accept
Cancel
PRN
Reason:
Comments: This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA Family Medicine



Patients will often tell you the name of a med, but not know the dose. There is a simple way to record that.

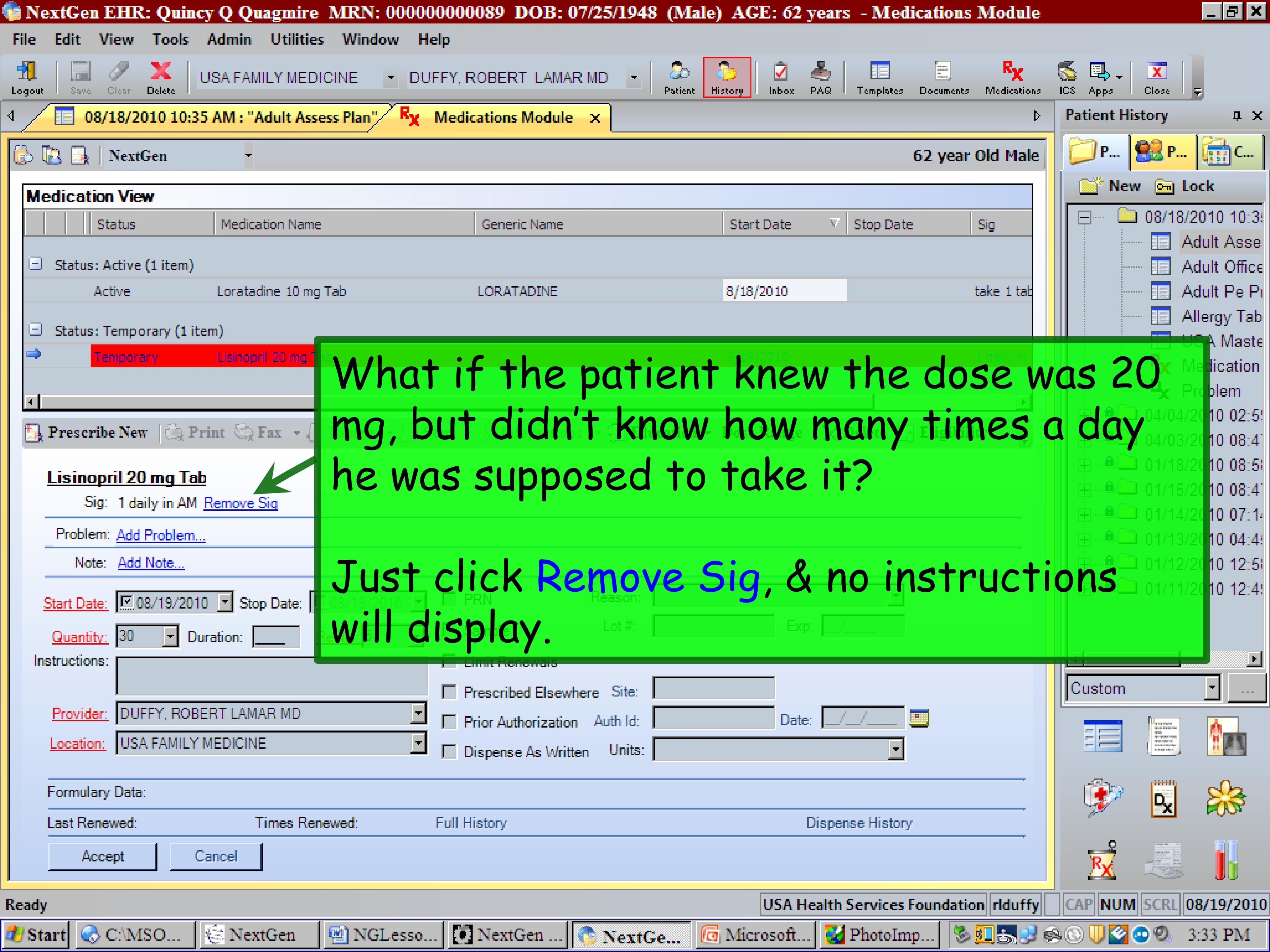
In this example, our patient has told us he takes lisinopril, but doesn't know the dose. We clicked Prescribe New, added any dose of lisinopril, & now we're back to here.

Click on Lisinopril 20 mg Tab.



You see a list of all doses of lisinopril, with <Unknown Strength> at the bottom. Click on that.

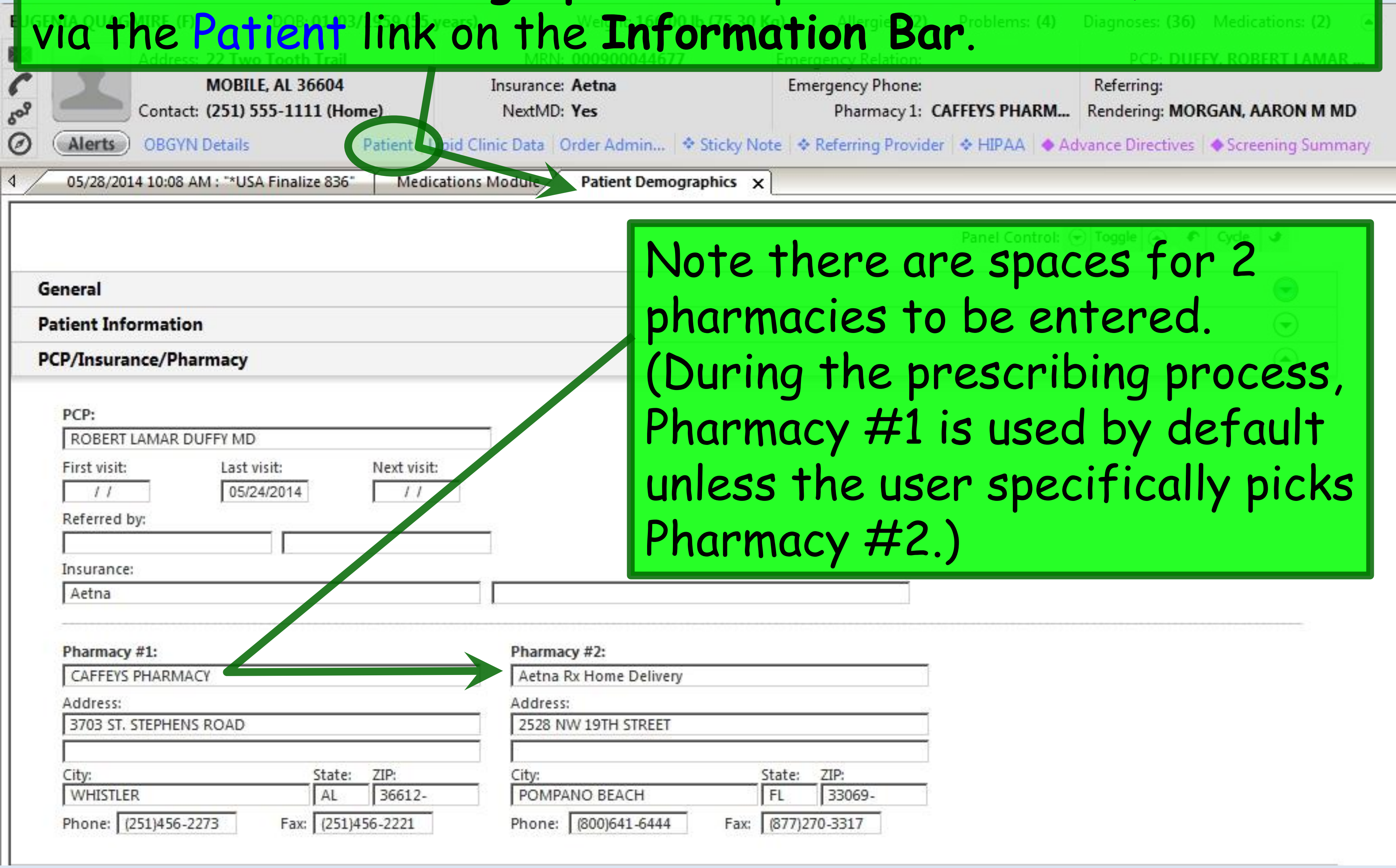
This is also a simple way to change a dose without having to delete the medication & add it back all over again.


NextGen EHR: Quincy Q Quagmire MRN: 000000000089 DOB: 07/25/1948 (Male) AGE: 62 years - Medications Module
Medication View
Status: Active (1 item)
Active Loratadine 10 mg Tab LORATADINE 8/18/2010 take 1 tab
Status: Temporary (1 item)
Lisinopril 20 mg Tab
Sig: 1 daily in AM Remove Sig
What if the patient knew the dose was 20 mg, but didn't know how many times a day he was supposed to take it?
Just click Remove Sig, & no instructions will display.
Accept
Cancel

Electronic Prescribing and Pharmacy Selection

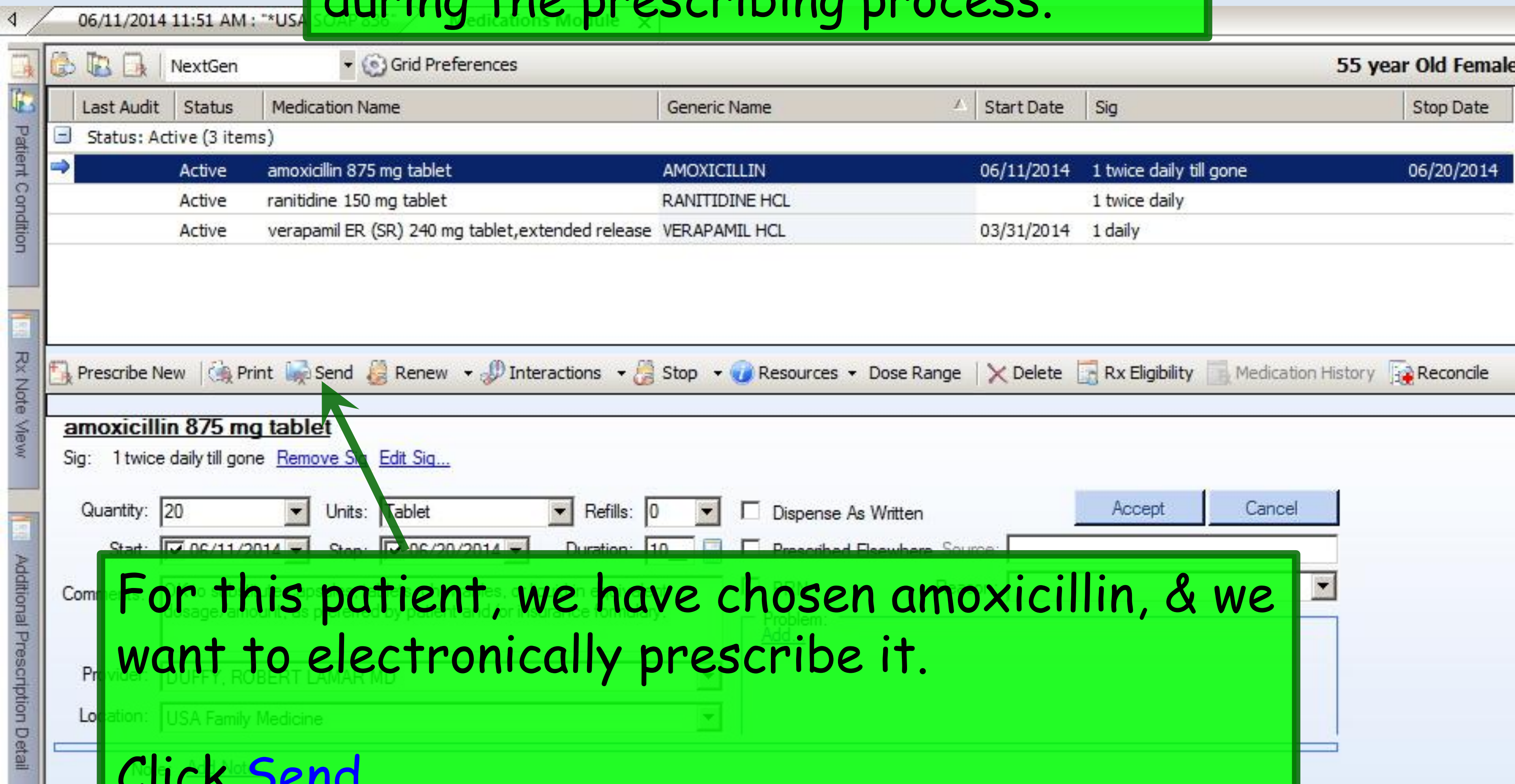
Tips on picking out the patient's desired pharmacy.

Generally, we want the front office staff to enter the patient's desired pharmacy. This can be accessed in EPM, or via the **Patient Demographics** template in the EHR, accessed via the Patient link on the **Information Bar**.



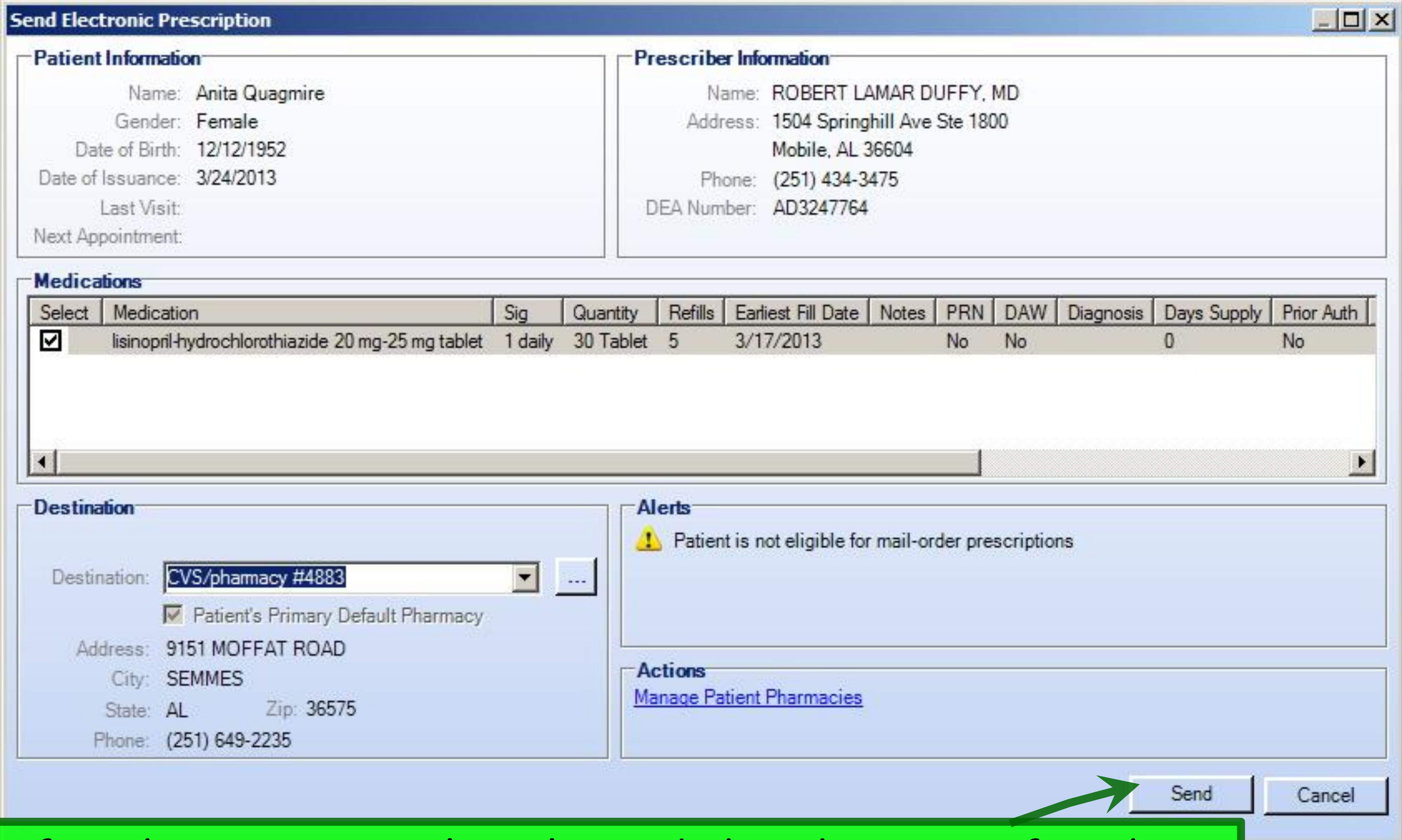
Note there are spaces for 2 pharmacies to be entered. (During the prescribing process, Pharmacy #1 is used by default unless the user specifically picks Pharmacy #2.)

Pharmacy selection can also be done during the prescribing process.

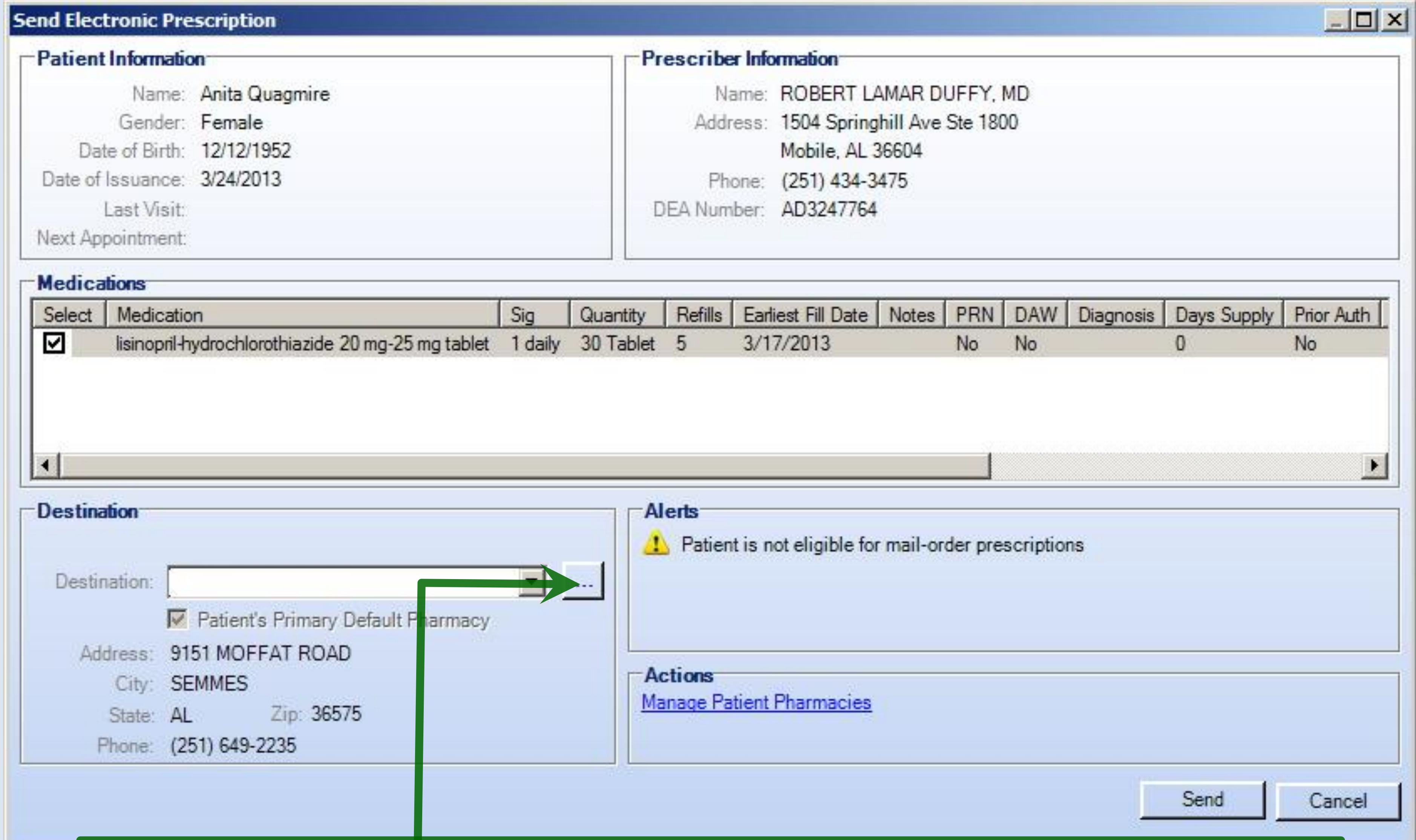


For this patient, we have chosen amoxicillin, & we want to electronically prescribe it.

Click Send.

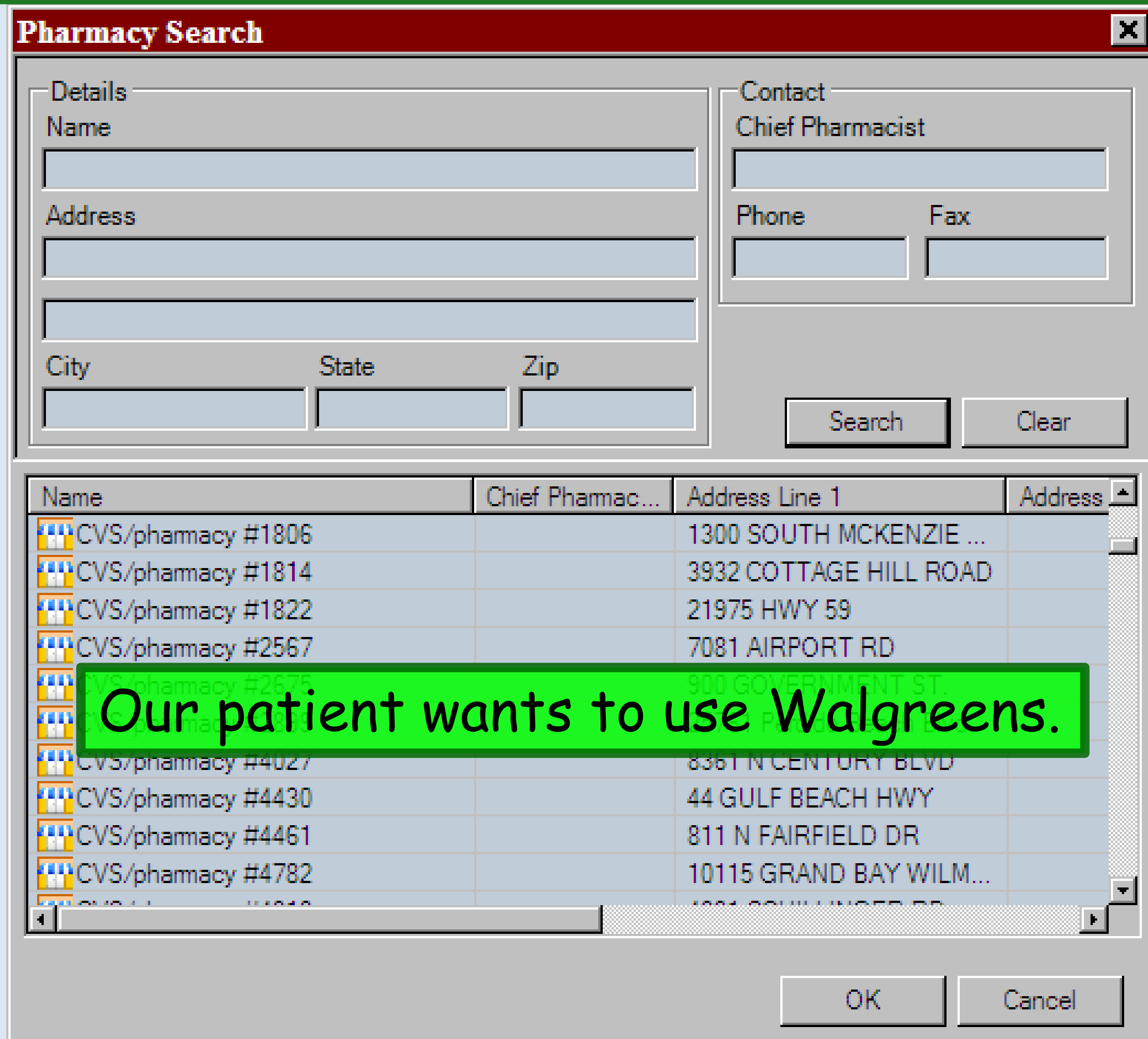


If we have previously selected the pharmacy for this patient, it will display. It's always good to confirm the patient hasn't changed pharmacies, but if this remains correct, just click Send, & the prescription is done.



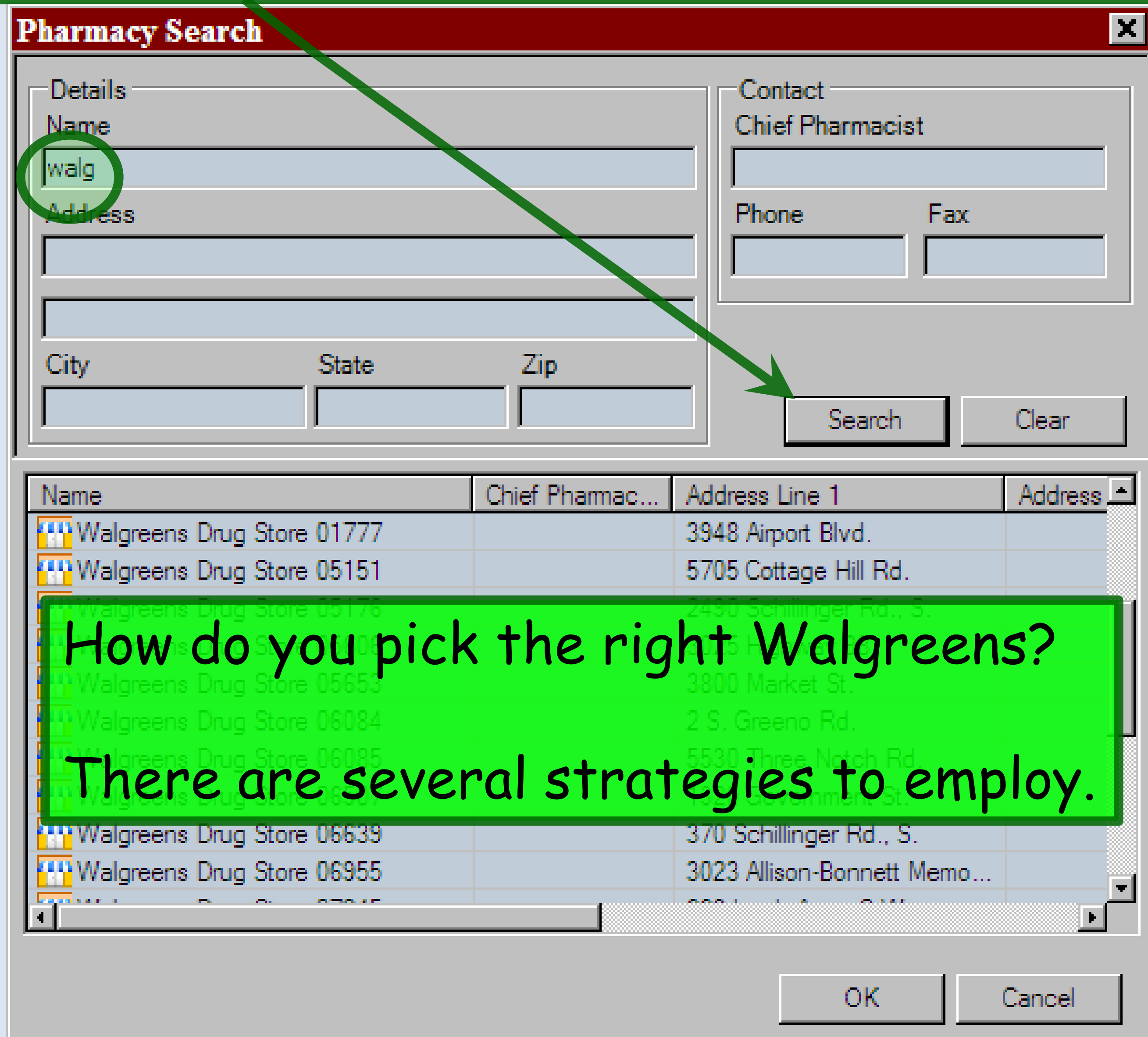
If we *haven't* previously selected the pharmacy the destination will be blank. Click the ellipsis to select the patient's pharmacy.

A list of pharmacies within about 100 miles is displayed. You can scroll through this, or use the search function, which often speeds things up.



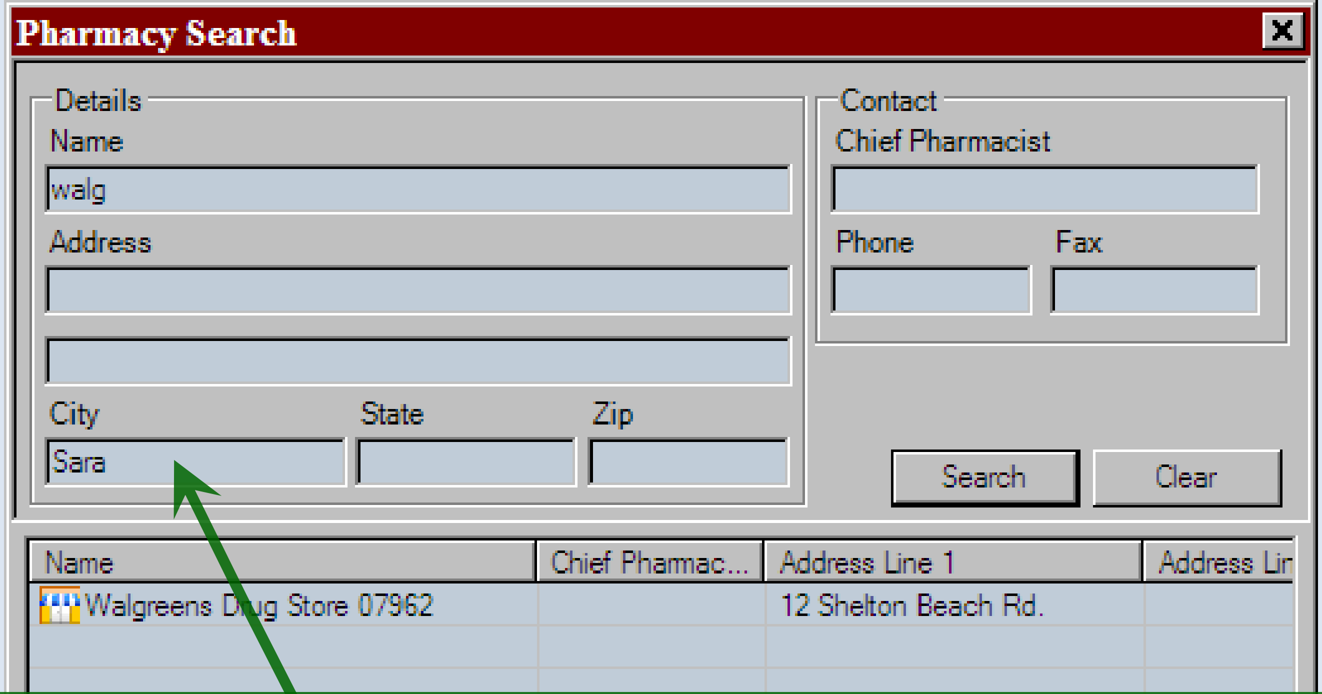
Our patient wants to use Walgreens.

Type Walg, then click the Search button.
A long list of Walgreens will appear.



How do you pick the right Walgreens?

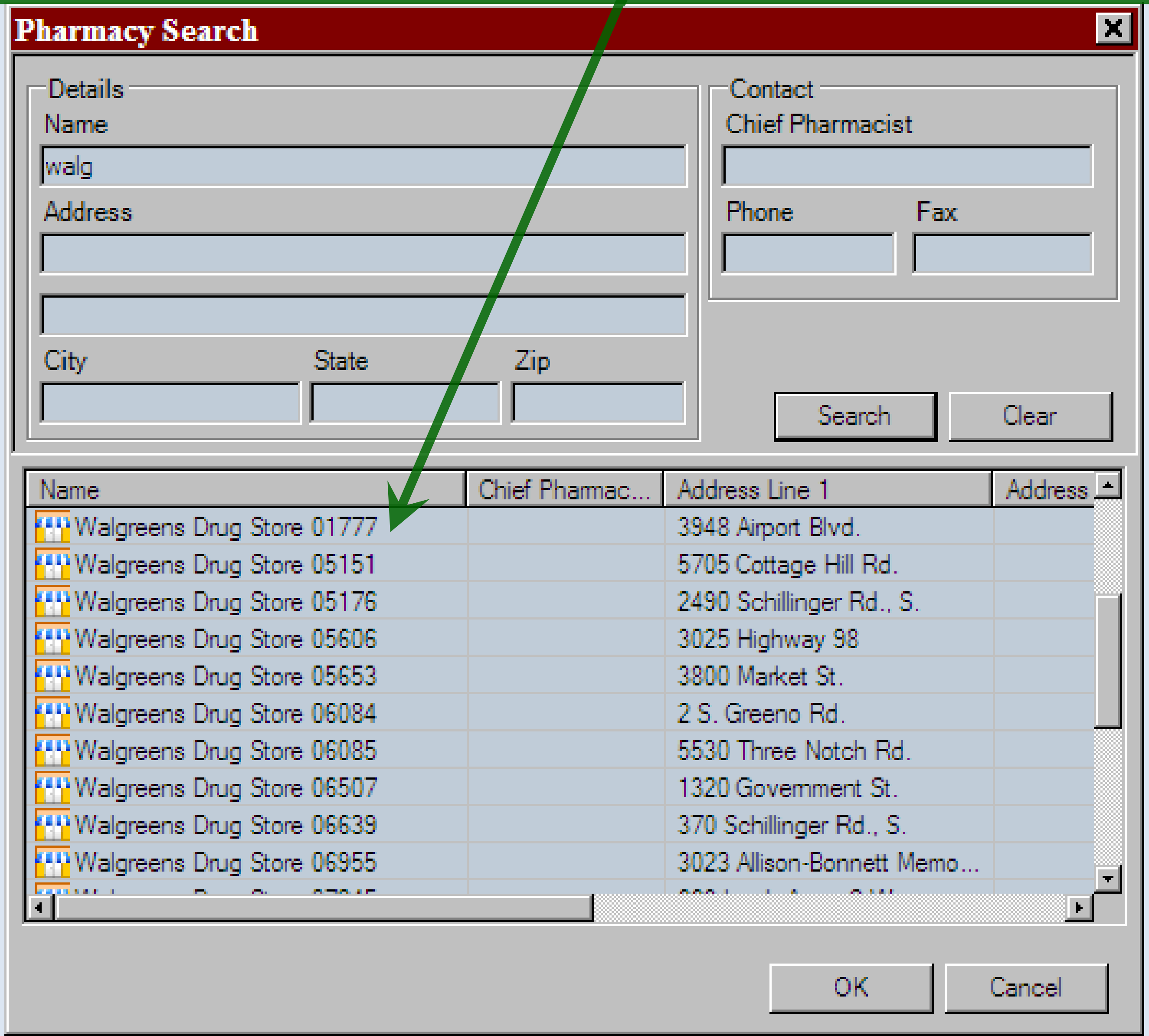
There are several strategies to employ.



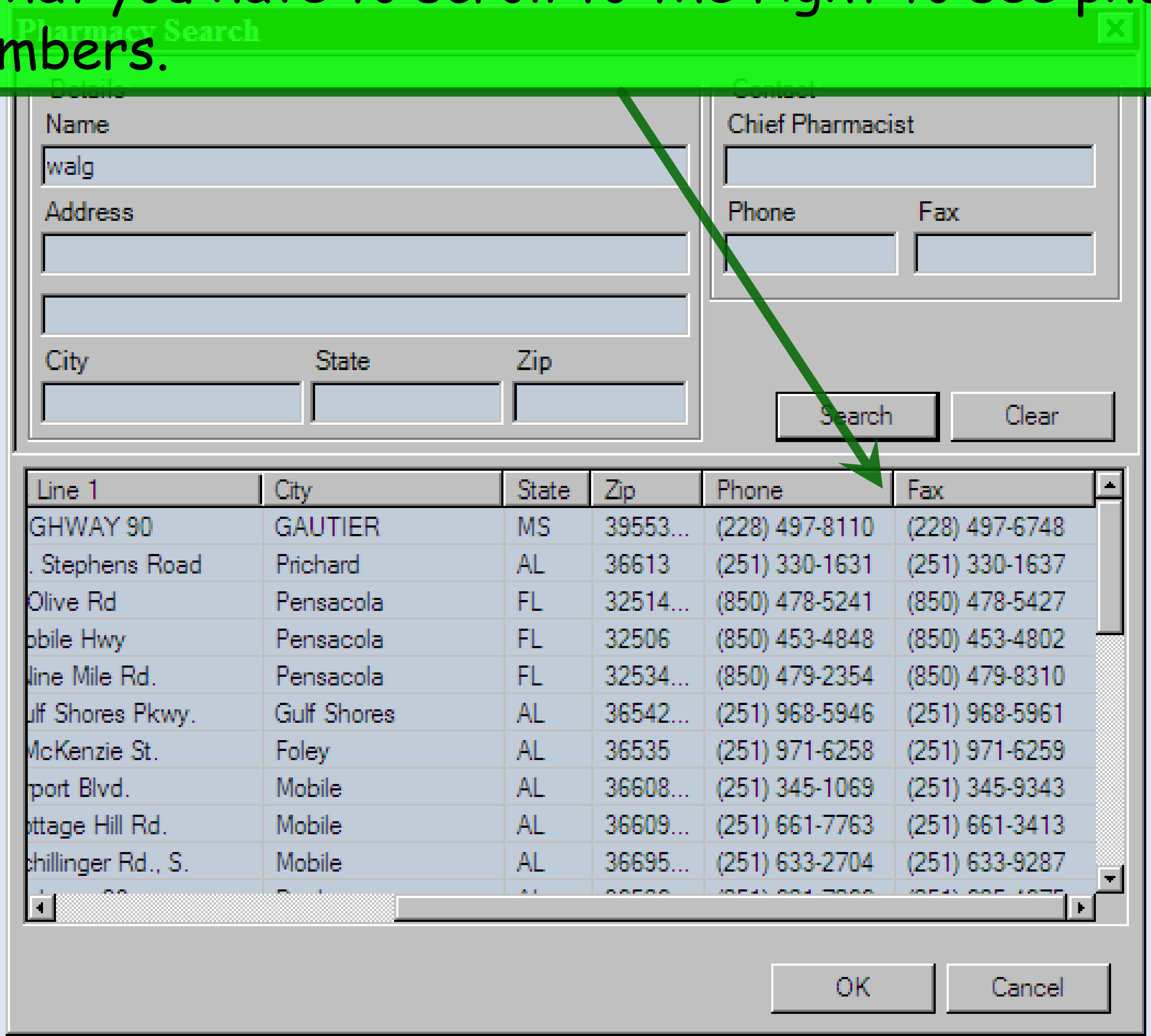
Include the city in your search. If this is one of the smaller surrounding towns, this is particularly helpful. Even a partial name suffices. Here we've found the only Walgreens in Saraland.

Note that searching for a partial address, however, isn't very good. Searching for Airport under address won't pull up a store at 3948 Airport Blvd.

If the patient has a prescription bottle with him, the store number will usually be on it.

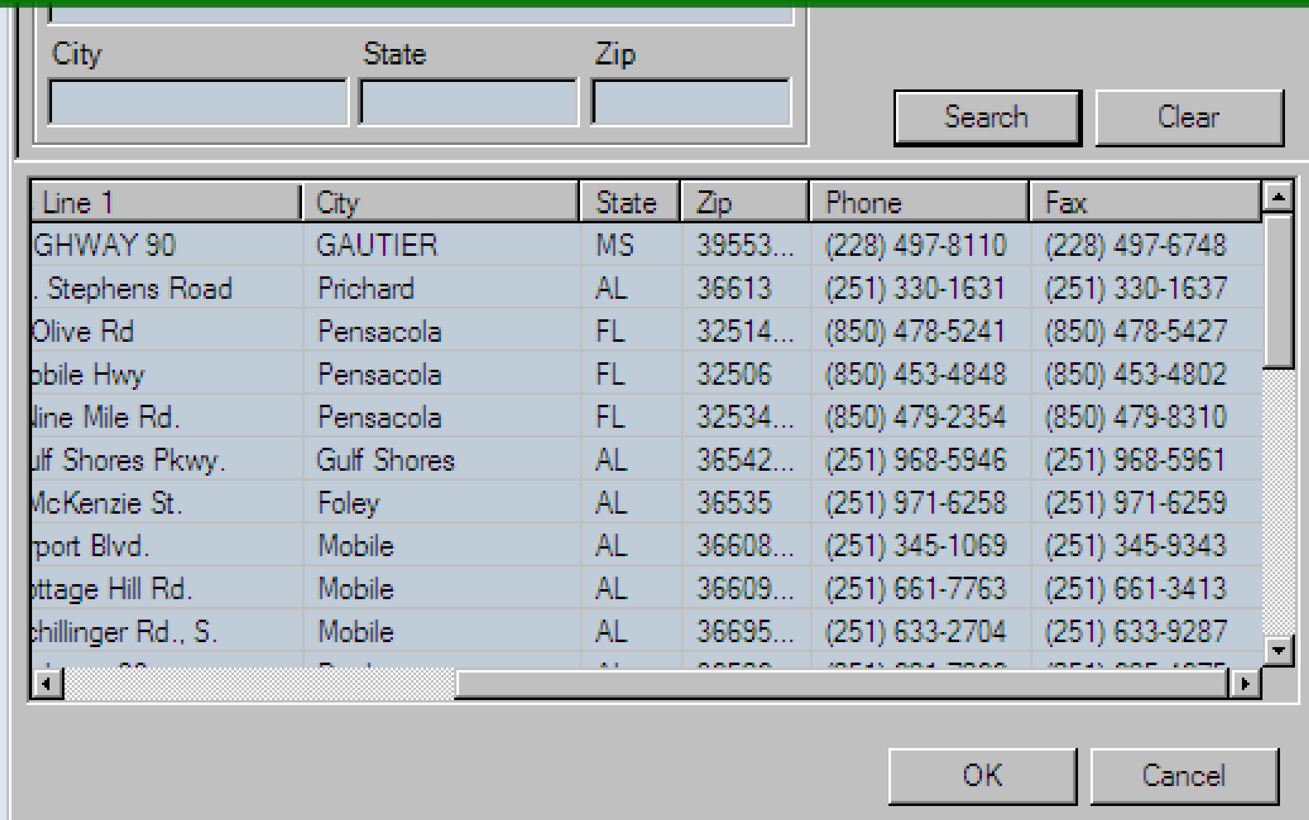


The bottle will also have the phone number, & the patient may know the phone number.
Note that you have to scroll to the right to see phone & fax numbers.

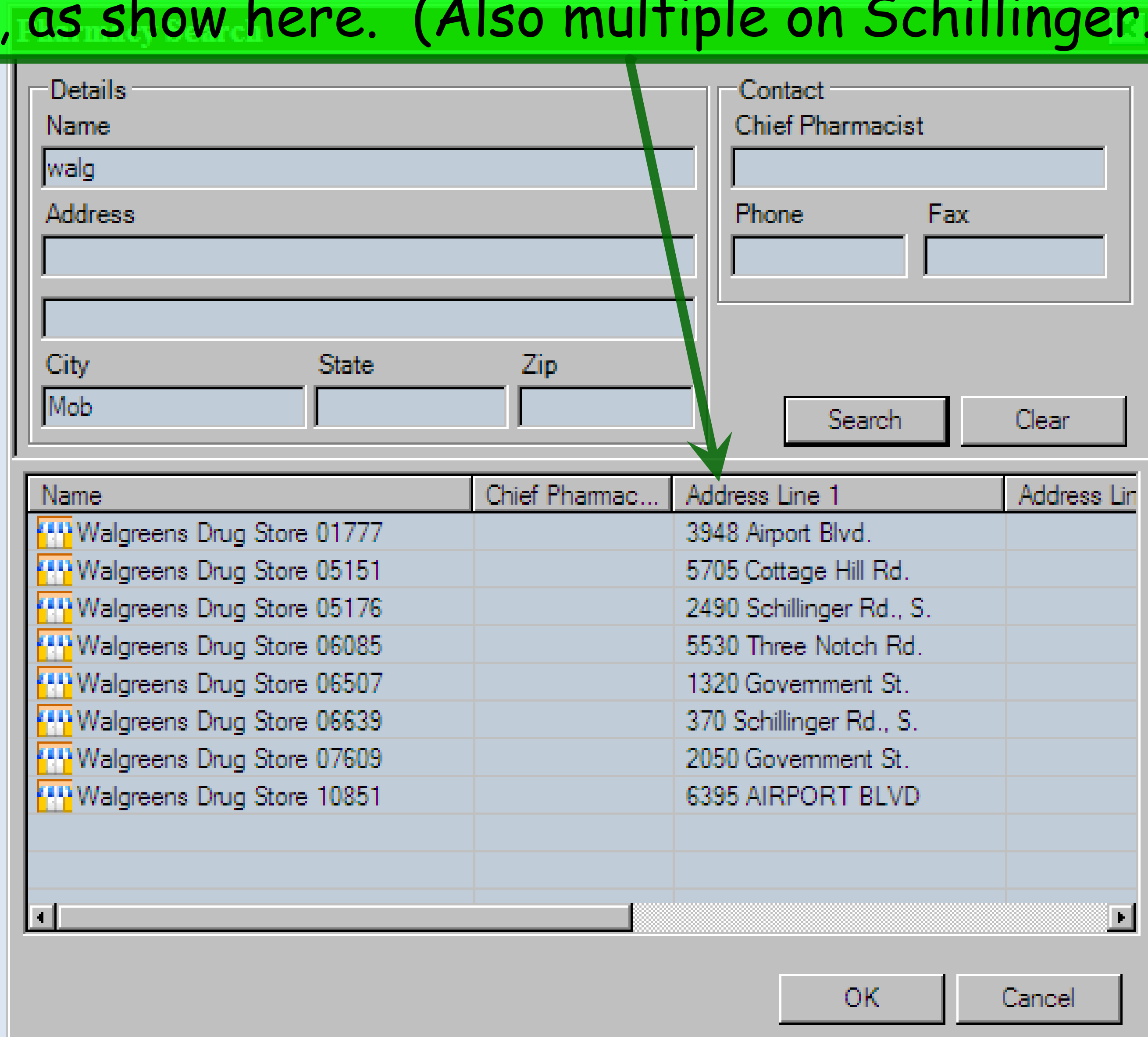


A note about phone numbers

The pharmacy will often have multiple numbers—one for the general public, one for doctors' offices, a main number, a pharmacy-direct number, etc. If you see a number that is only off by the last digit, that's probably the one you want.



The patient may tell you "The Walgreens on Airport." But with the major chains, there may be multiple stores on Airport, as show here. (Also multiple on Schillinger.)



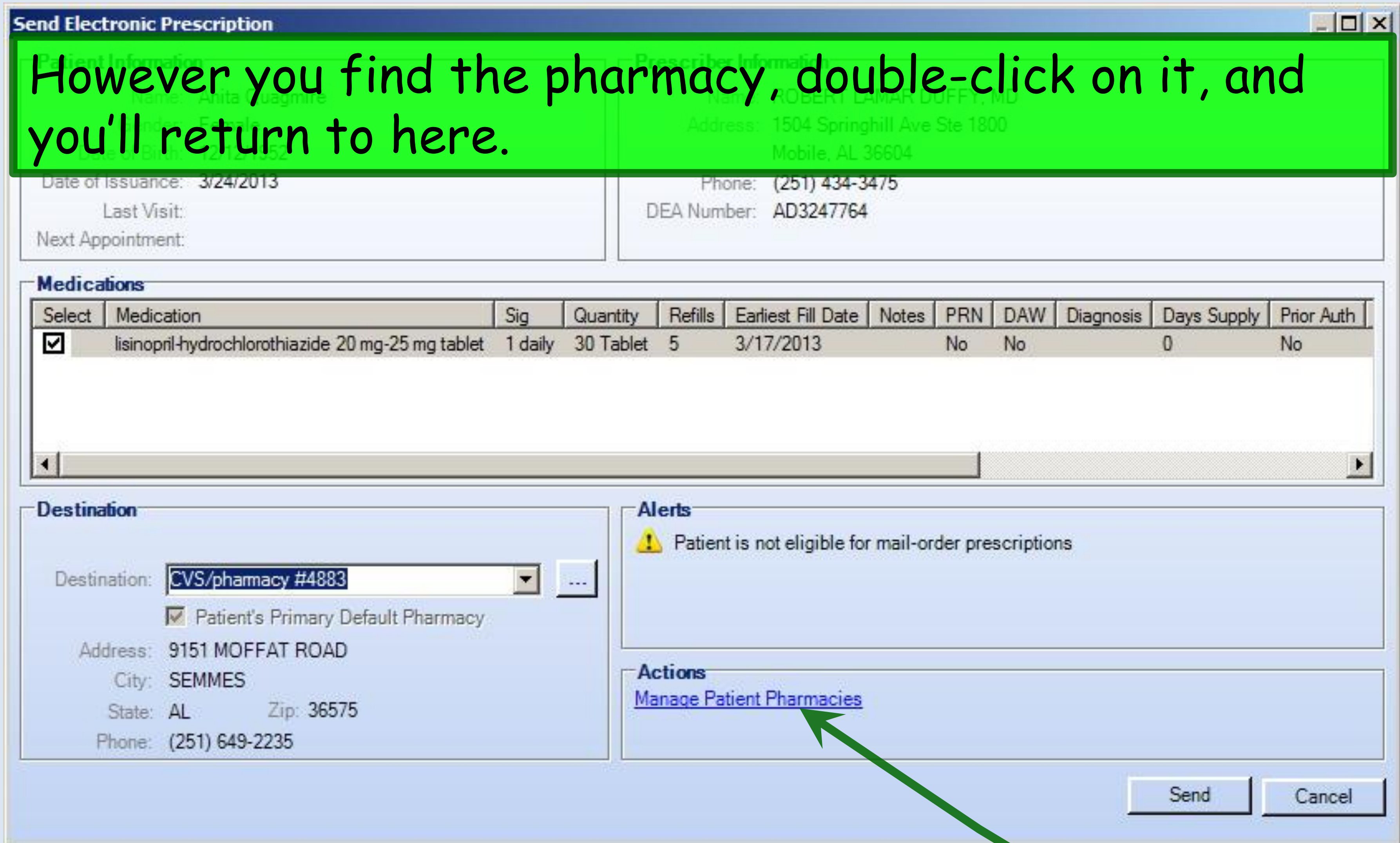
Notes about addresses

1) If there are multiple stores on the same road, confirm the location by another method—it beats getting a callback because “the medicine isn’t at the pharmacy.”
2) Beware corner locations. E.G., one of the “Rite Aids on Government” actually has an Ann Street address.
3) Take note of other confusing descriptions. E.G., there are several pharmacies “at the Loop.”
4) Take note of city borders. Several pharmacies straddle Mobile & Prichard, & may appear listed under either city.

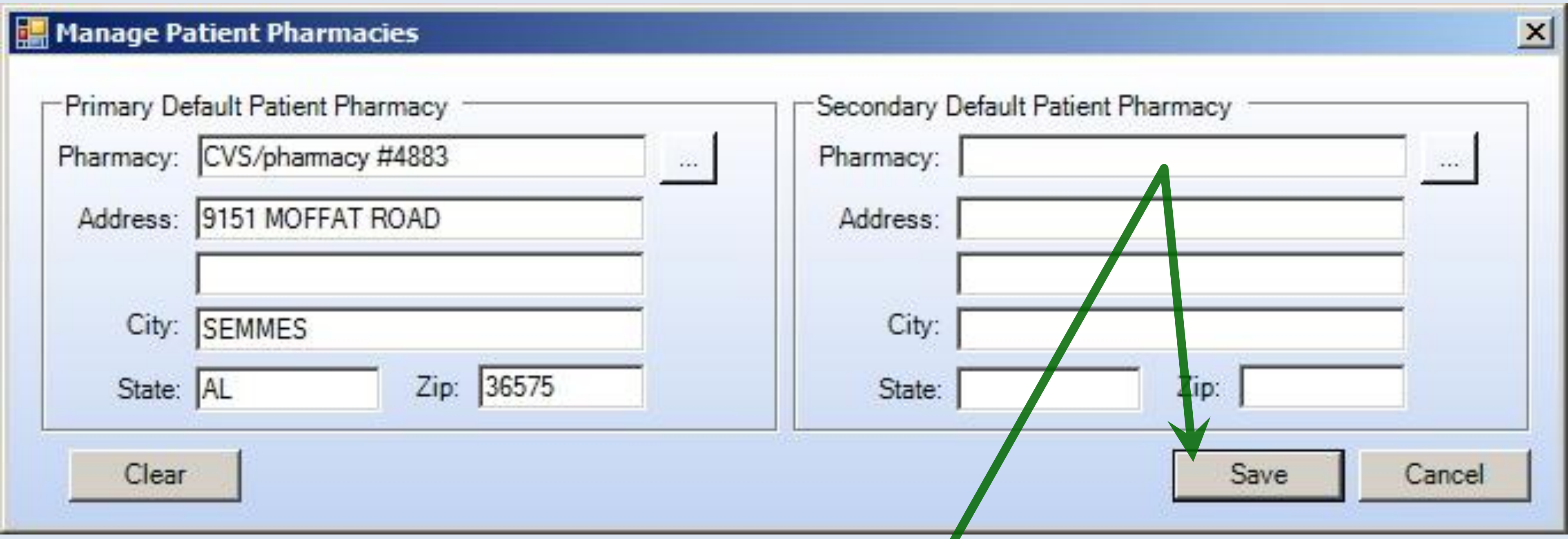
Notes about addresses

5) Searching by border/unincorporated communities is inconsistent. E.G., you can search for Semmes, but not Tillman's Corner.
6) If necessary, call the pharmacy to clarify; the answering machine message alone may be all you need.
7) MapQuest/Google Maps may also clear things up.
8) Many clinics have a pharmacy "cheatsheet" to clear up this sort of confusion—and the nurses may know it by heart.
9) If all else fails, just print the prescription.

However you find the pharmacy, double-click on it, and you'll return to here.

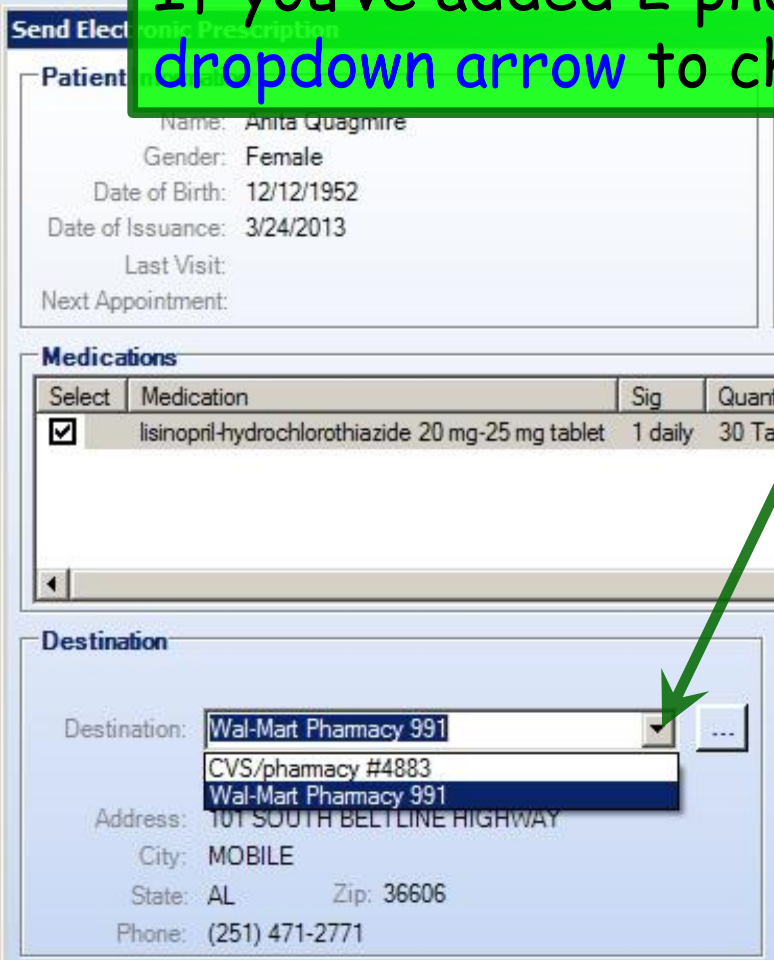


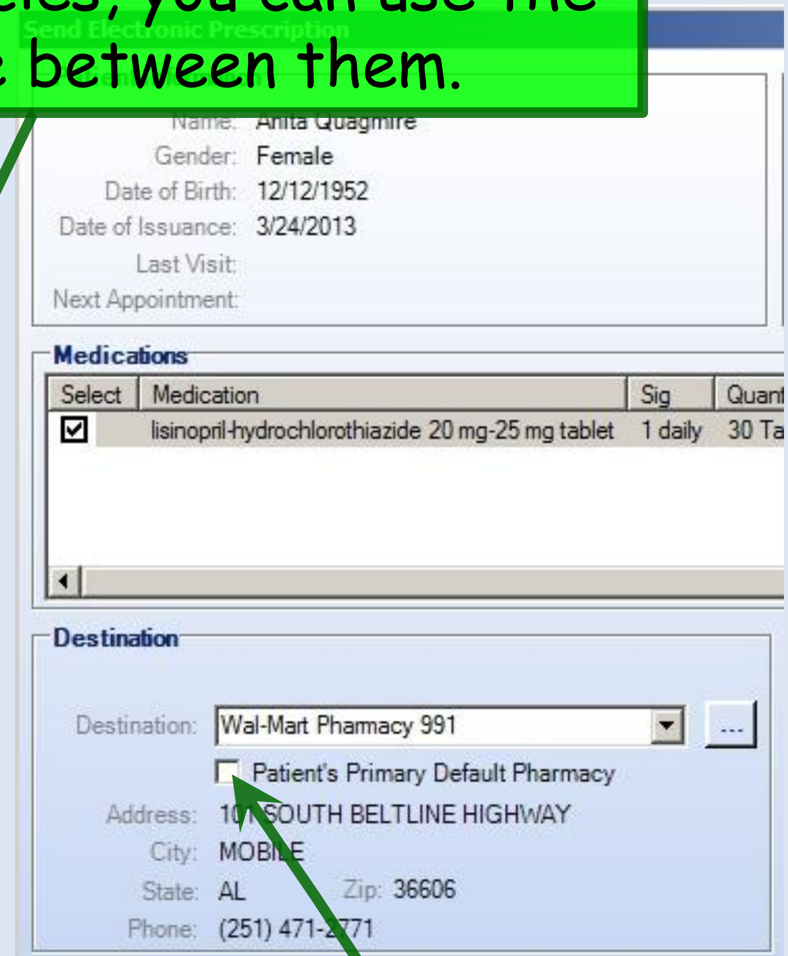
If the patient sometimes uses another pharmacy, you can add a 2nd one by clicking Manage Patient Pharmacies.



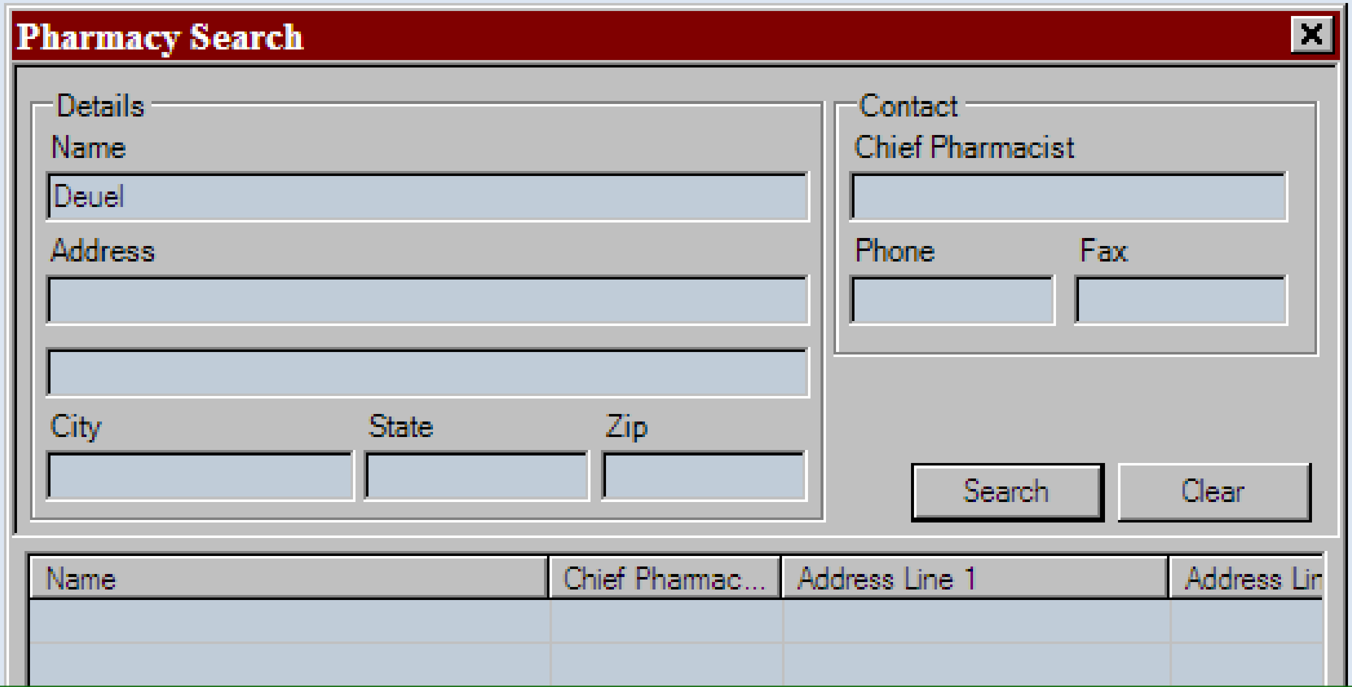
Here you can search for the 2nd pharmacy just like you did for the 1st one.
When done, click Save.

If you've added 2 pharmacies, you can use the dropdown arrow to choose between them.





You can also use the Patient's Primary Default Pharmacy checkbox to select which of these will be the default choice.



A few pharmacies just aren't listed. This is more likely with locally-owned private pharmacies, but it doesn't happen very often anymore. Sometimes it is due to a transient glitch in the system, or a problem with the pharmacy's SureScripts registration. If you don't see a pharmacy listed, call them, & inform them they're not showing up. They don't want to lose business, & they'll usually contact SureScripts & straighten out the problem. Print the prescription if you must.

Other times you'll have to print a prescription

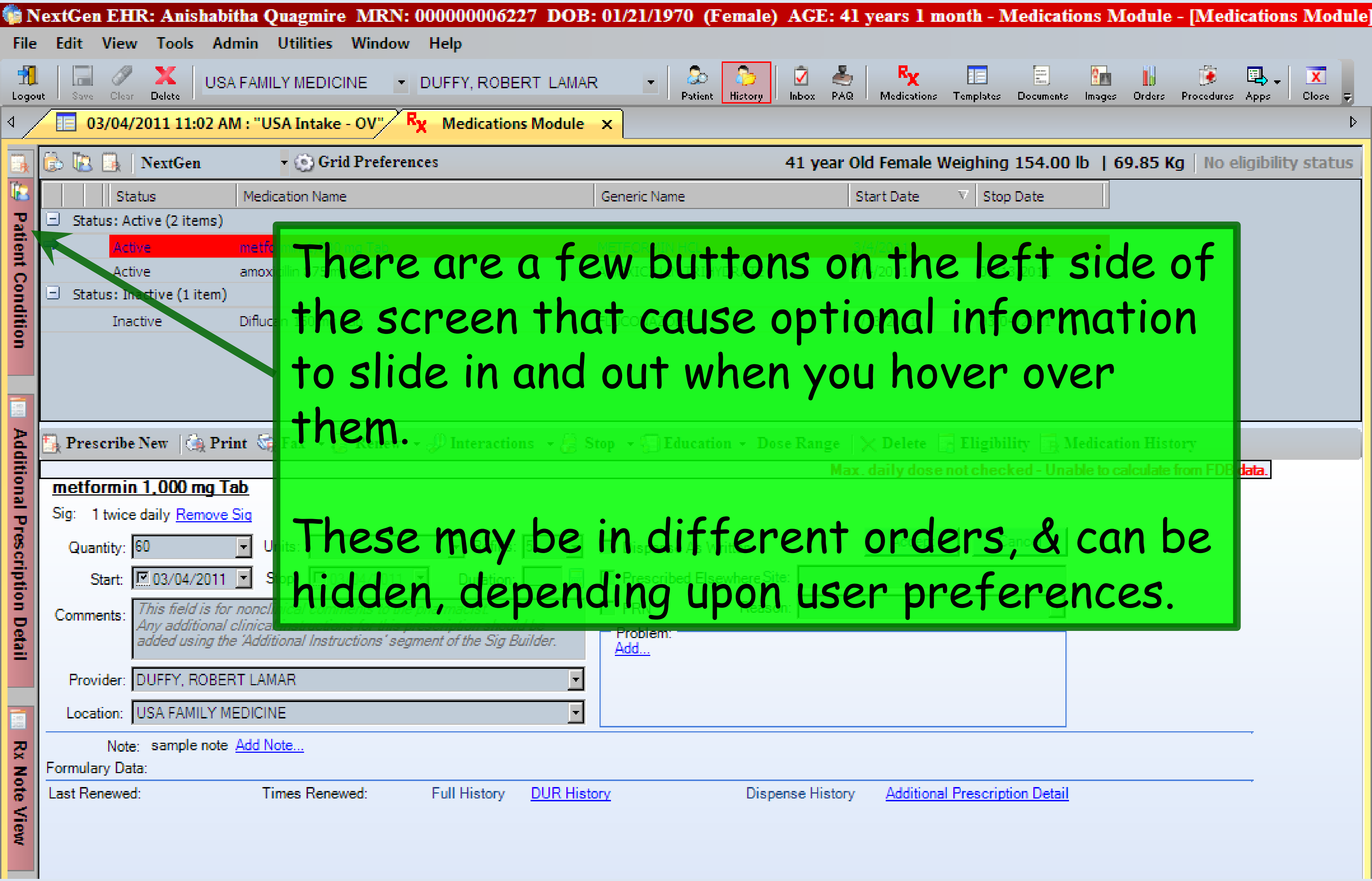
1) The Coast Guard Base & some mail-order pharmacies don't accept ERx as of this writing (though many mail-order pharmacies now *do* accept ERxs).
2) Controlled substances. (Though technically legal to ERx controlled substances, it will take some time for the details to be worked out.)
3) An institutional requirement for a printed prescription. (E.G., a day care or adult group home.)
4) The Internet is down & you are technically unable to transmit the prescription.
5) The patient insists on a printed prescription.

Notes about faxing prescriptions

1) Schedule III-V drugs can be faxed, even though they can't be ERxd.
2) Most pharmacies that can't accept ERx will accept a fax.
3) After your signature has been scanned into NextGen, you can fax a prescription with your signature.

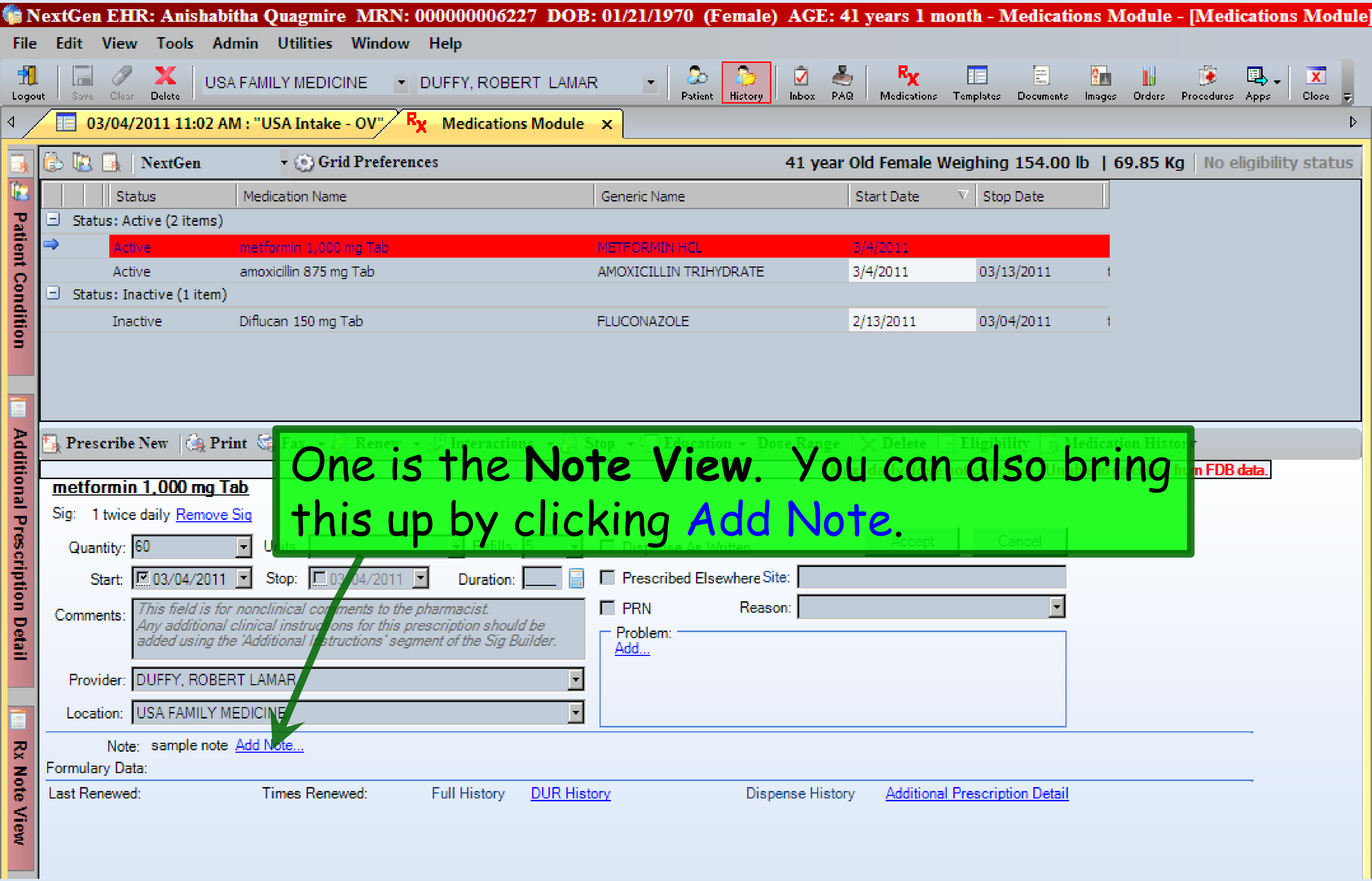
Optional Features

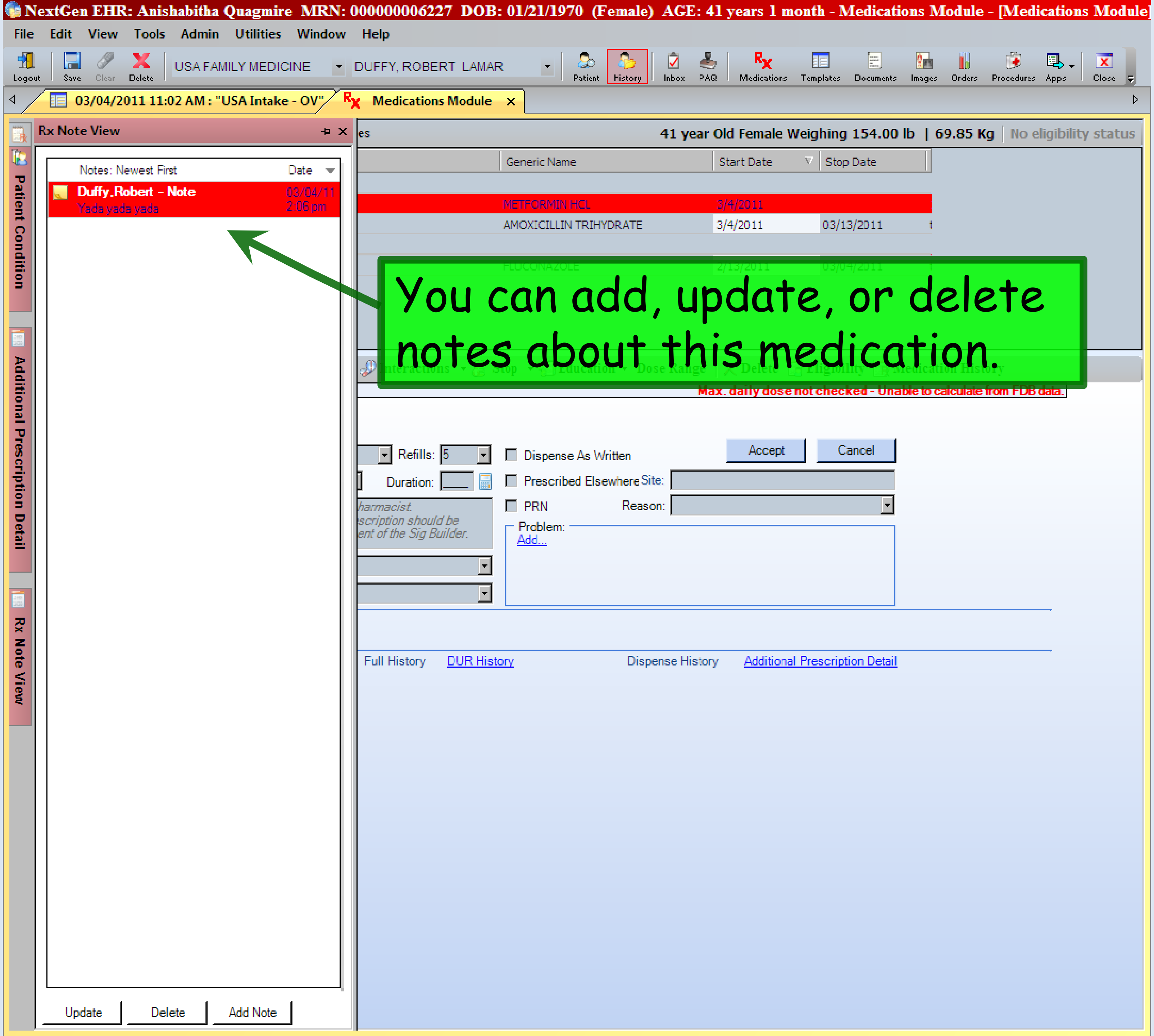
There are several other things on the medication module you may or may not choose to use.

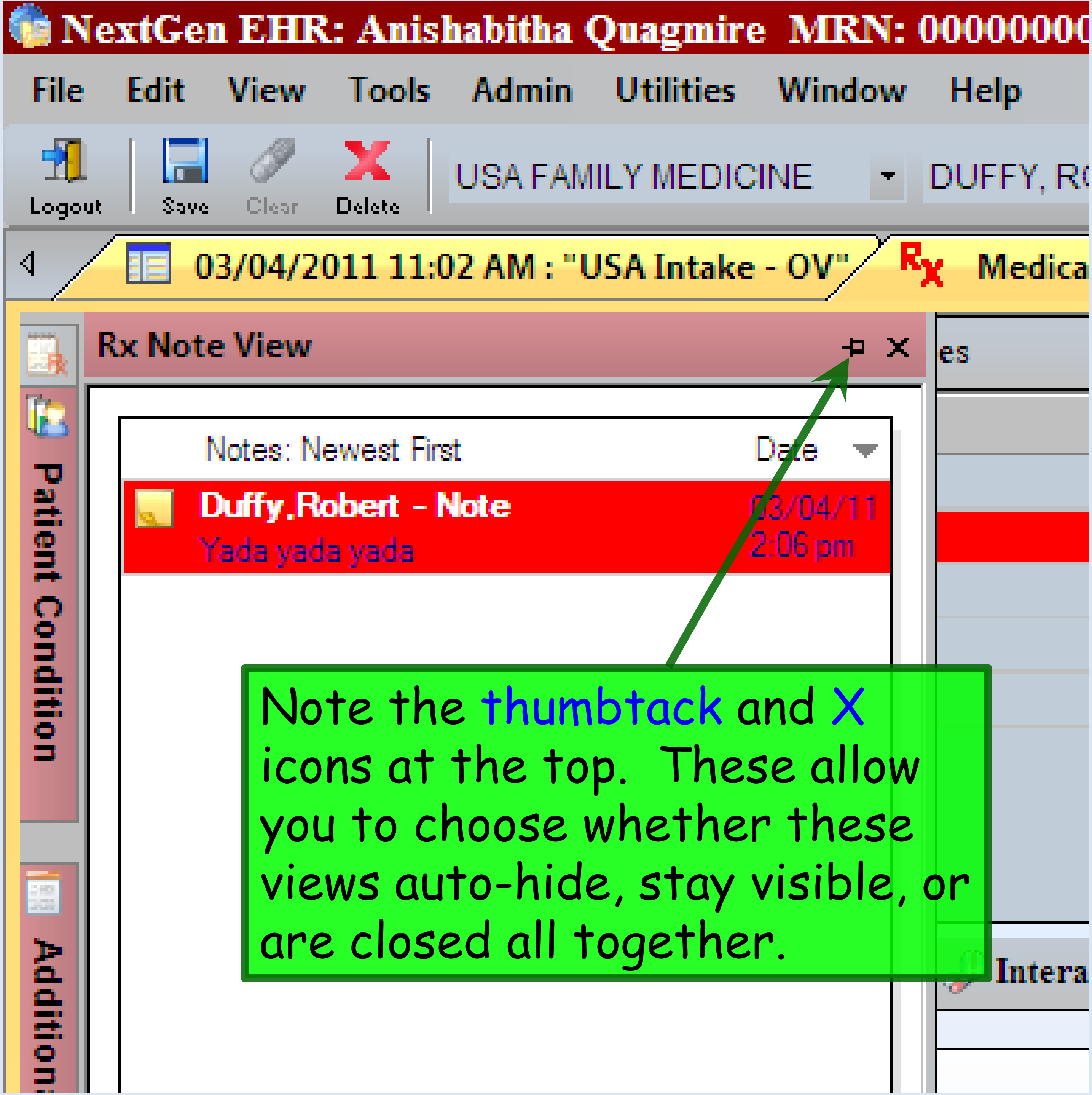


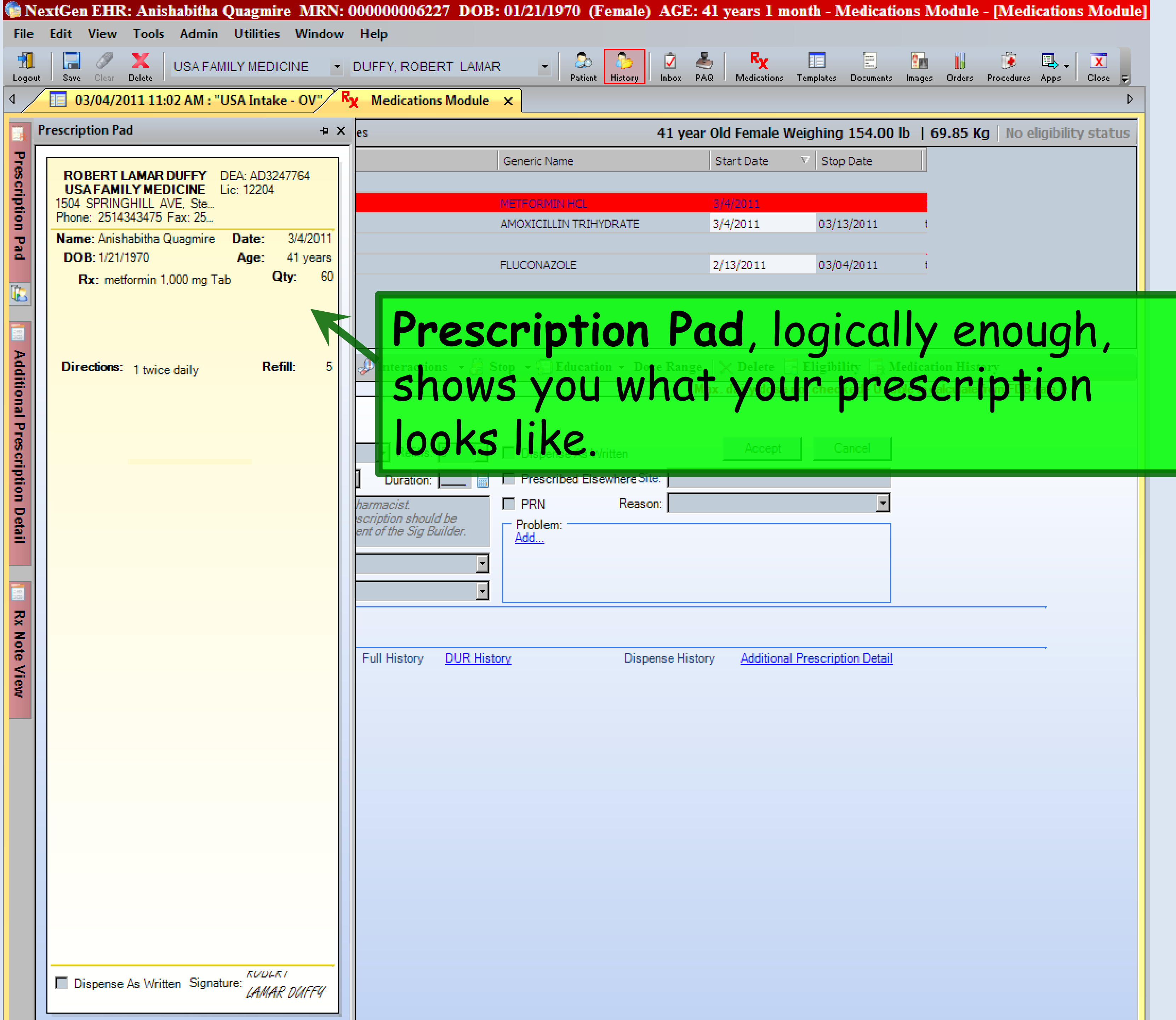
There are a few buttons on the left side of the screen that cause optional information to slide in and out when you hover over them.

These may be in different orders, & can be hidden, depending upon user preferences.


NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 000000006227 DOB: 01/21/1970 (Female) AGE: 41 years 1 month - Medications Module - [Medications Module]
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout Save Clear Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Patient History Inbox PAQ Medications Templates Documents Images Orders Procedures Apps Close
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA Intake - OV"
Medications Module
NextGen
Grid Preferences
41 year Old Female Weighing 154.00 lb | 69.85 Kg
No eligibility status
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Status: Active (2 items)
Active metformin 1,000 mg Tab METFORMIN HCL 3/4/2011
Active amoxicillin 875 mg Tab AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE 3/4/2011 03/13/2011
Status: Inactive (1 item)
Inactive Diflucan 150 mg Tab FLUCONAZOLE 2/13/2011 03/04/2011
Patient Condition
Additional Prescription Detail
Rx Note View
Prescribe New
Print
metformin 1,000 mg Tab
Sig: 1 twice daily Remove Sig
Quantity: 60
Start: 03/04/2011
Stop:
Duration:
Prescribed Elsewhere Site:
PRN
Reason:
Comments: This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE
Note: sample note Add Note...
Formulary Data:
Last Renewed:
Times Renewed:
Full History
DUR History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail
One is the Note View. You can also bring this up by clicking Add Note.


NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 000000006227 DOB: 01/21/1970 (Female) AGE: 41 years 1 month - Medications Module - [Medications Module]
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout Save Clear Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Patient History Inbox PAQ Medications Templates Documents Images Orders Procedures Apps Close
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA Intake - OV"
Medications Module
Rx Note View
Notes: Newest First
Date
Duffy, Robert - Note
Yada yada yada
03/04/11 2:06 pm
Update
Delete
Add Note
Patient Condition
Additional Prescription Detail
Rx Note View
41 year Old Female Weighing 154.00 lb | 69.85 Kg
No eligibility status
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
METFORMIN HCL
3/4/2011
AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE
3/4/2011
03/13/2011
You can add, update, or delete notes about this medication.
Max. daily dose not checked - Unable to calculate from FDB data.
Refills: 5
Duration:
Dispense As Written
Prescribed Elsewhere
Site:
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Add...
Accept
Cancel
Full History
DUR History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail

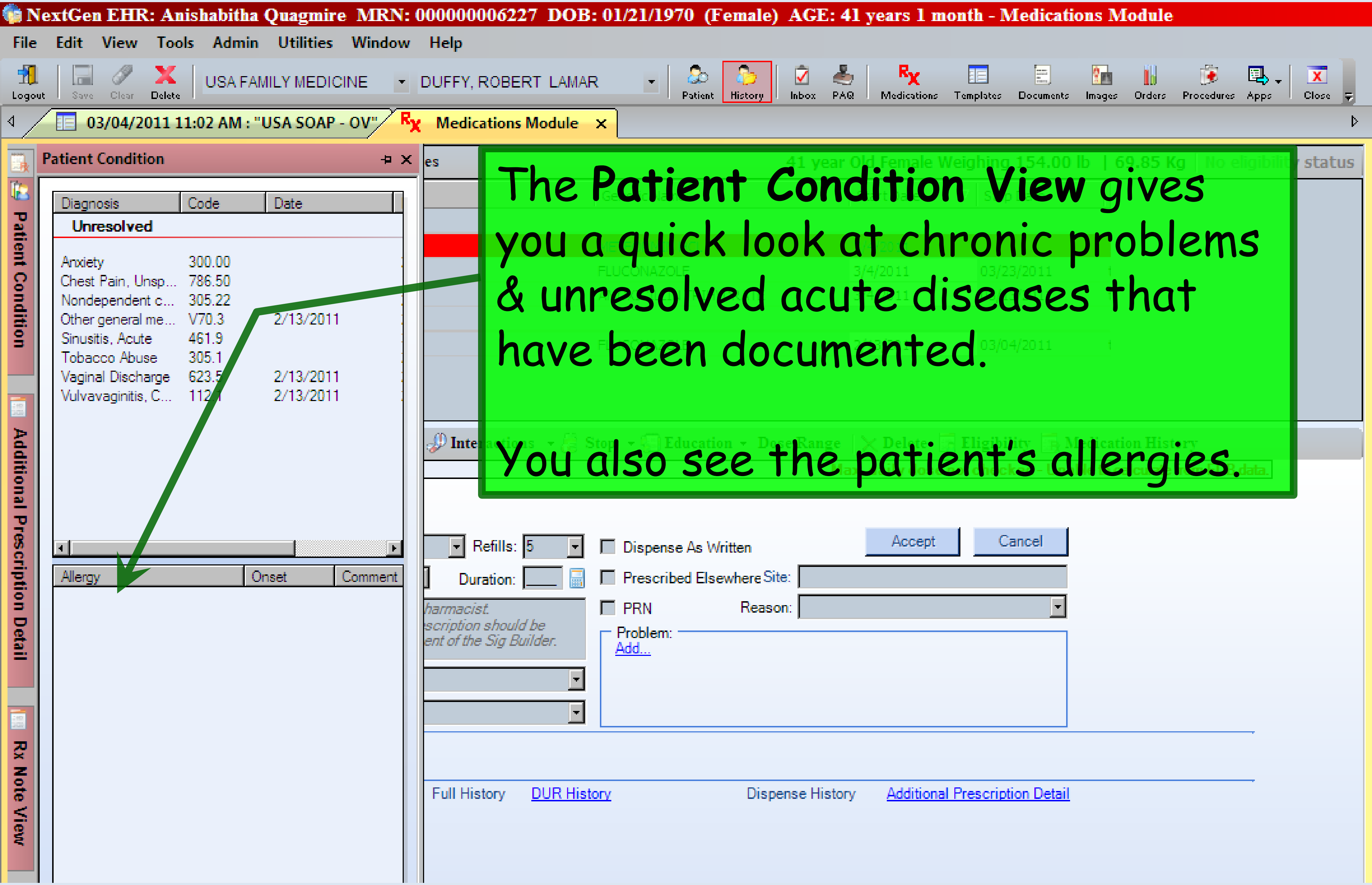

NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 0000000
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout
Save
Clear
Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, R
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA Intake - OV"
Medica
Rx Note View
Notes: Newest First
Date
Duffy, Robert - Note
Yada yada yada
03/04/11
2:06 pm
Patient Condition
Addition
Intera
Note the thumbtack and X icons at the top. These allow you to choose whether these views auto-hide, stay visible, or are closed all together.

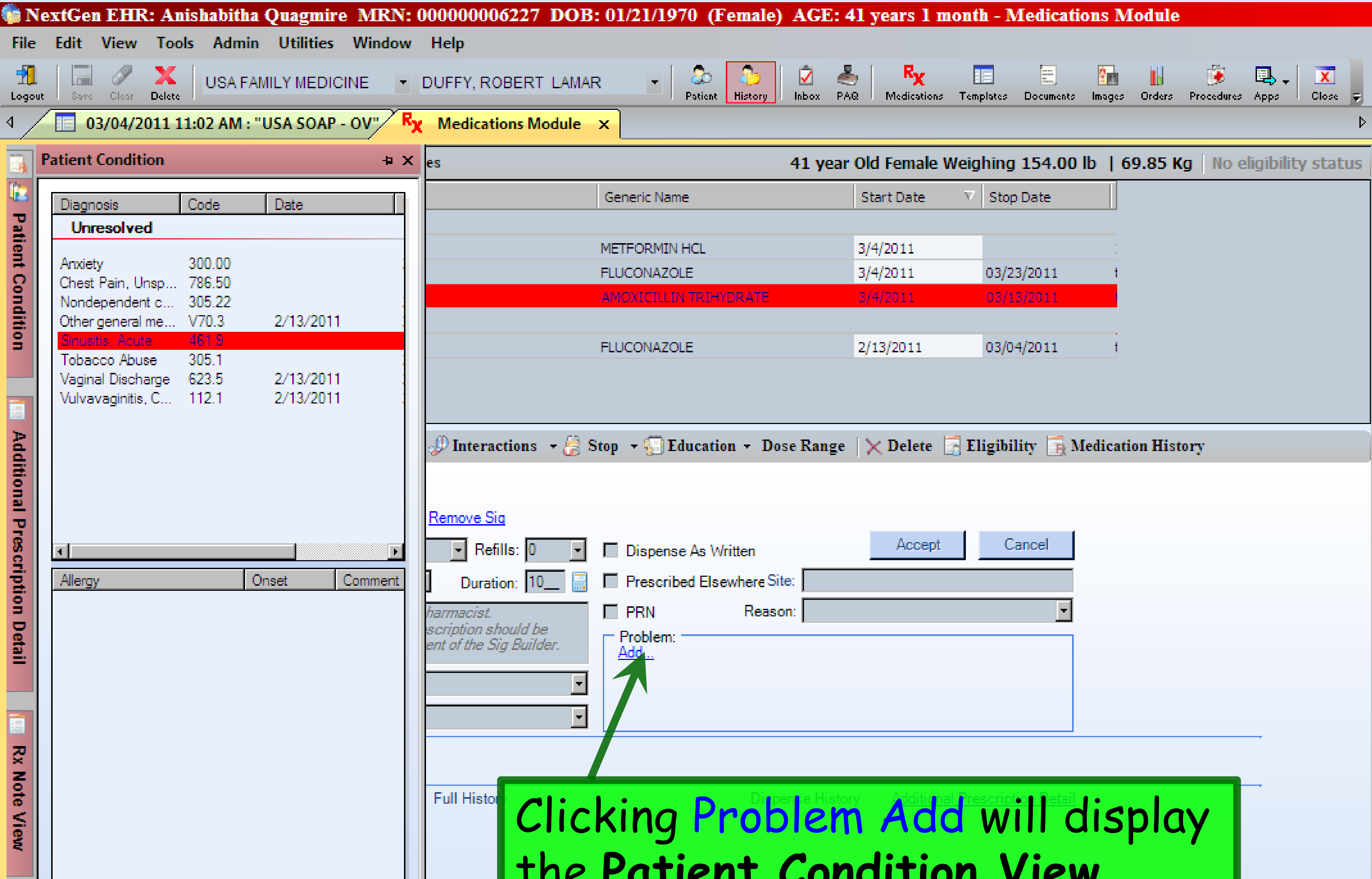


Prescription Pad, logically enough, shows you what your prescription looks like.

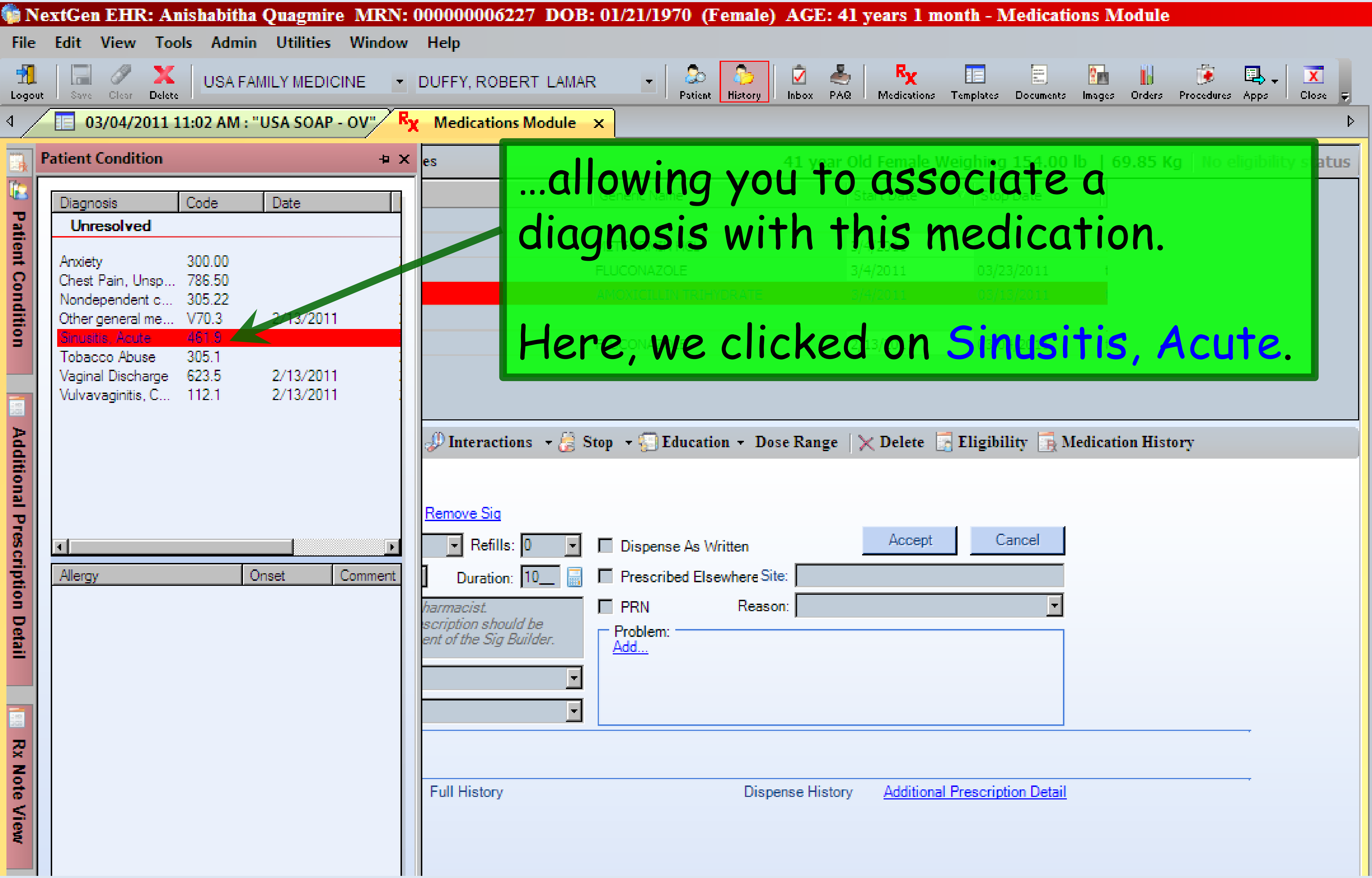
The **Patient Condition View** gives you a quick look at chronic problems & unresolved acute diseases that have been documented.

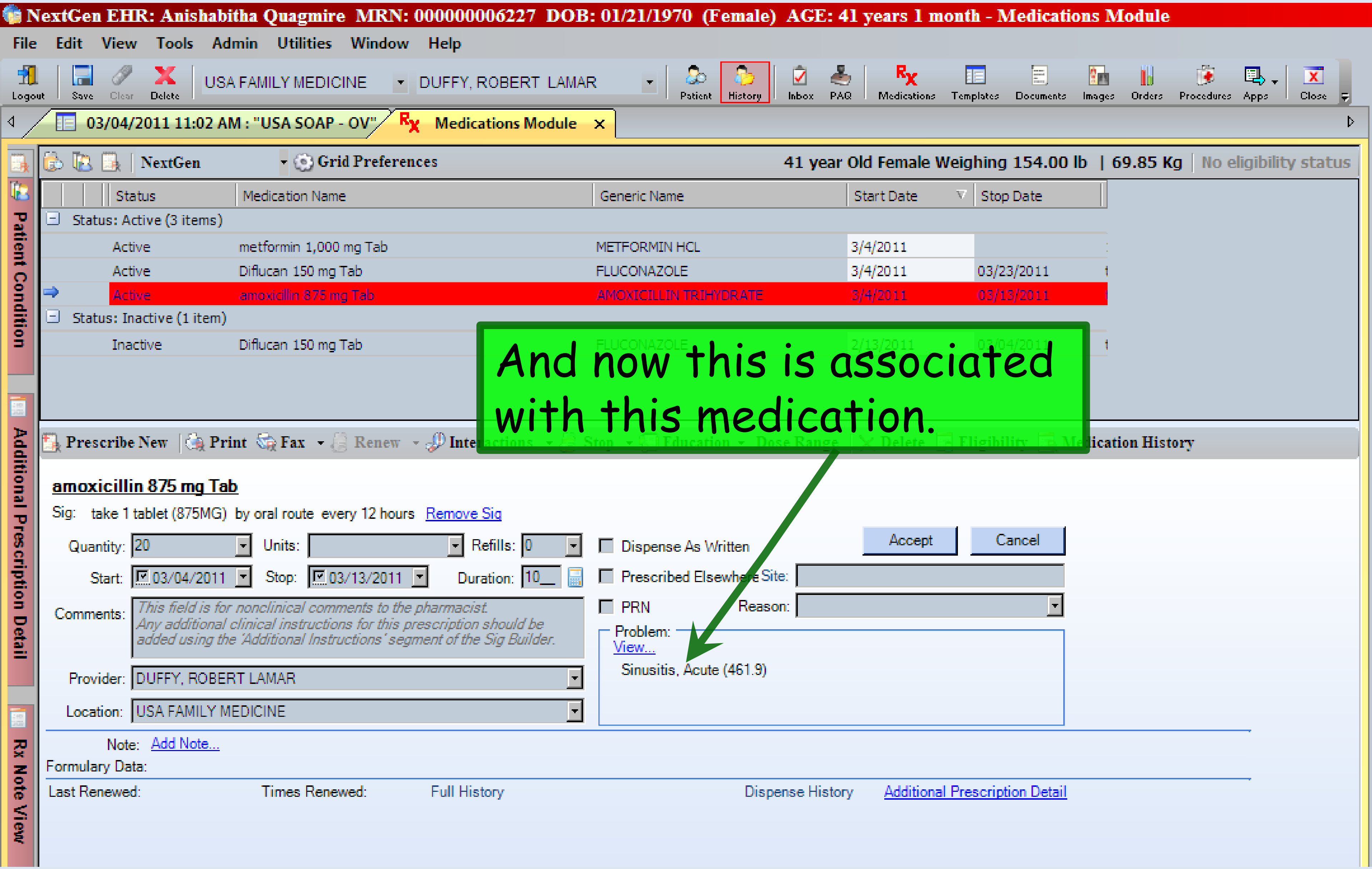
You also see the patient's allergies.

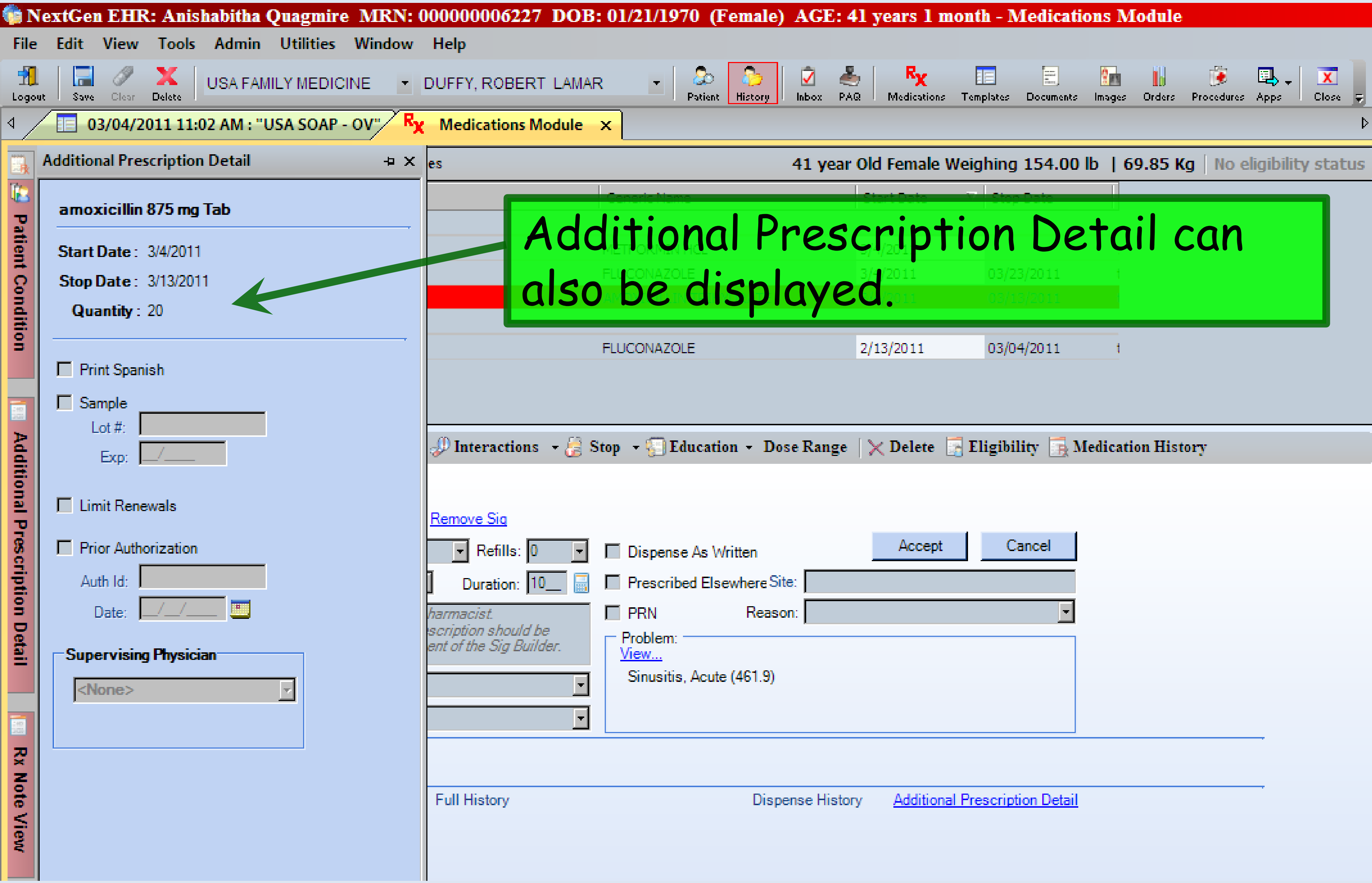


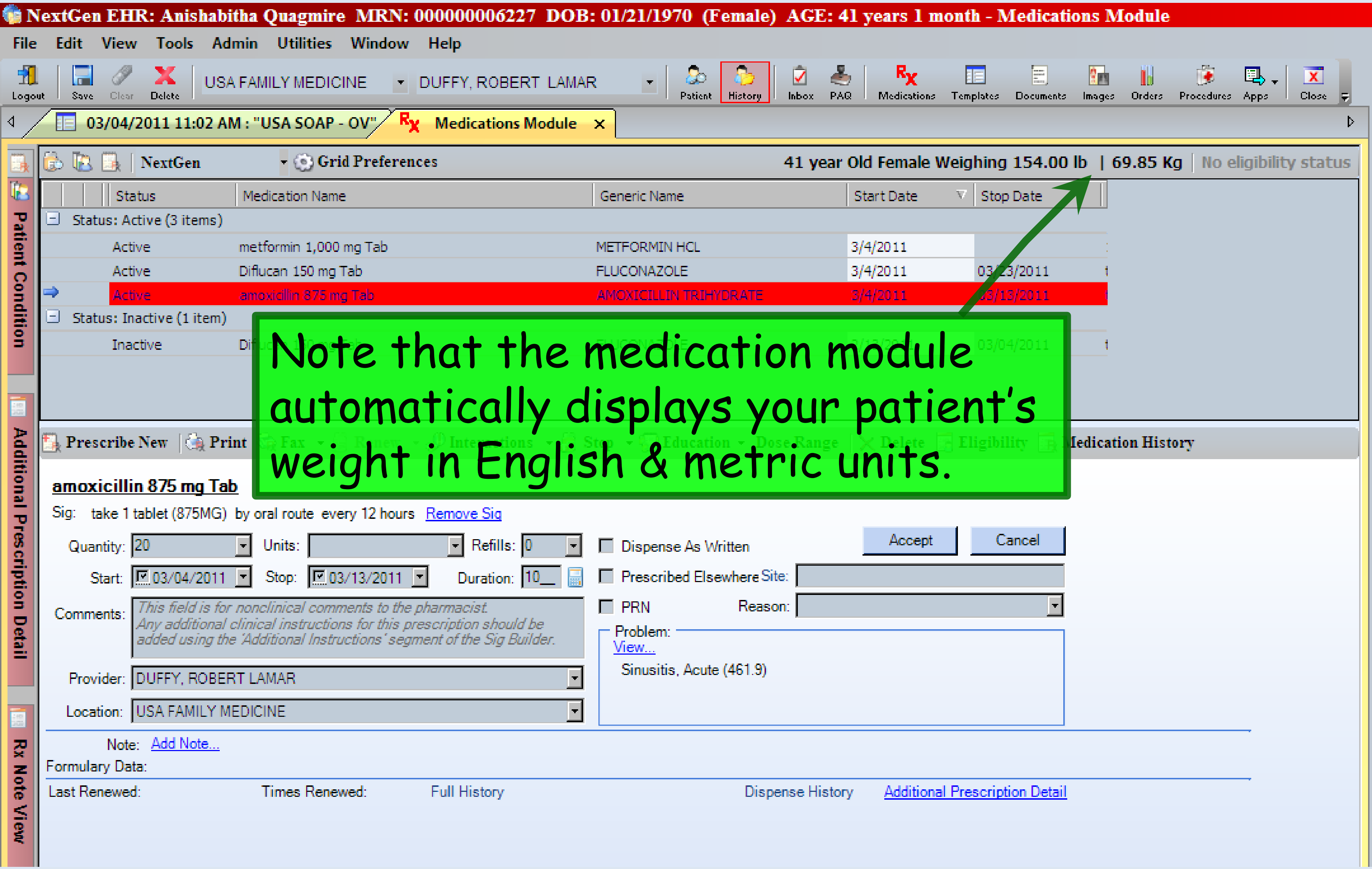


Clicking **Problem Add** will display the **Patient Condition View**…


...allowing you to associate a diagnosis with this medication.
Here, we clicked on Sinusitis, Acute.
NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 000000006227 DOB: 01/21/1970 (Female) AGE: 41 years 1 month - Medications Module
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout Save Clear Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Patient History Inbox PAQ Medications Templates Documents Images Orders Procedures Apps Close
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA SOAP - OV"
Medications Module
Patient Condition
Diagnosis Code Date
Unresolved
Anxiety 300.00
Chest Pain, Unsp... 786.50
Nondependent c... 305.22
Other general me... V70.3 2/13/2011
Sinusitis, Acute 461.9
Tobacco Abuse 305.1
Vaginal Discharge 623.5 2/13/2011
Vulvavaginitis, C... 112.1 2/13/2011
Allergy Onset Comment
Patient Condition
Additional Prescription Detail
Rx Note View
Interactions Stop Education Dose Range Delete Eligibility Medication History
Remove Sig
Refills: 0
Duration: 10
Dispense As Written
Prescribed Elsewhere Site:
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Add...
Accept
Cancel
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail

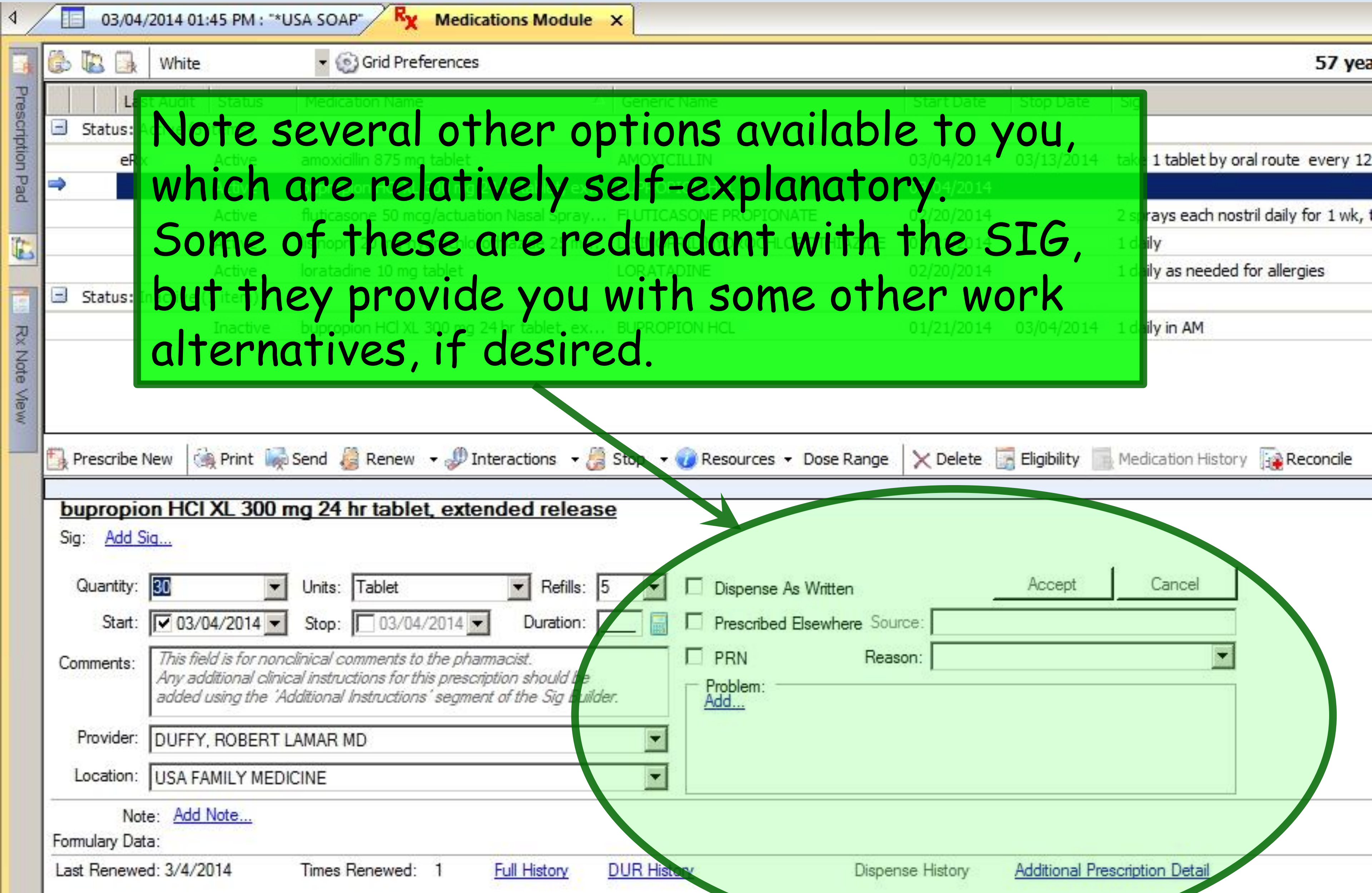

NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 000000006227 DOB: 01/21/1970 (Female) AGE: 41 years 1 month - Medications Module
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout Save Clear Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Patient History Inbox PAQ Medications Templates Documents Images Orders Procedures Apps Close
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA SOAP - OV"
Medications Module
Patient Condition
Additional Prescription Detail
Rx Note View
NextGen
Grid Preferences
41 year Old Female Weighing 154.00 lb | 69.85 Kg
No eligibility status
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Status: Active (3 items)
Active metformin 1,000 mg Tab METFORMIN HCL 3/4/2011
Active Diflucan 150 mg Tab FLUCONAZOLE 3/4/2011 03/23/2011
Active amoxicillin 875 mg Tab AMOXICILLIN TRIHYDRATE 3/4/2011 03/13/2011
Status: Inactive (1 item)
Inactive Diflucan 150 mg Tab
And now this is associated with this medication.
Prescribe New Print Fax Renew Inte
ication History
amoxicillin 875 mg Tab
Sig: take 1 tablet (875MG) by oral route every 12 hours
Remove Sig
Quantity: 20
Units:
Refills: 0
Dispense As Written
Accept
Cancel
Start: 03/04/2011
Stop: 03/13/2011
Duration: 10
Prescribed Elsewhere
Site:
PRN
Reason:
Comments:
This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist.
Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
Problem:
View...
Sinusitis, Acute (461.9)
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE
Note: Add Note...
Formulary Data:
Last Renewed:
Times Renewed:
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail

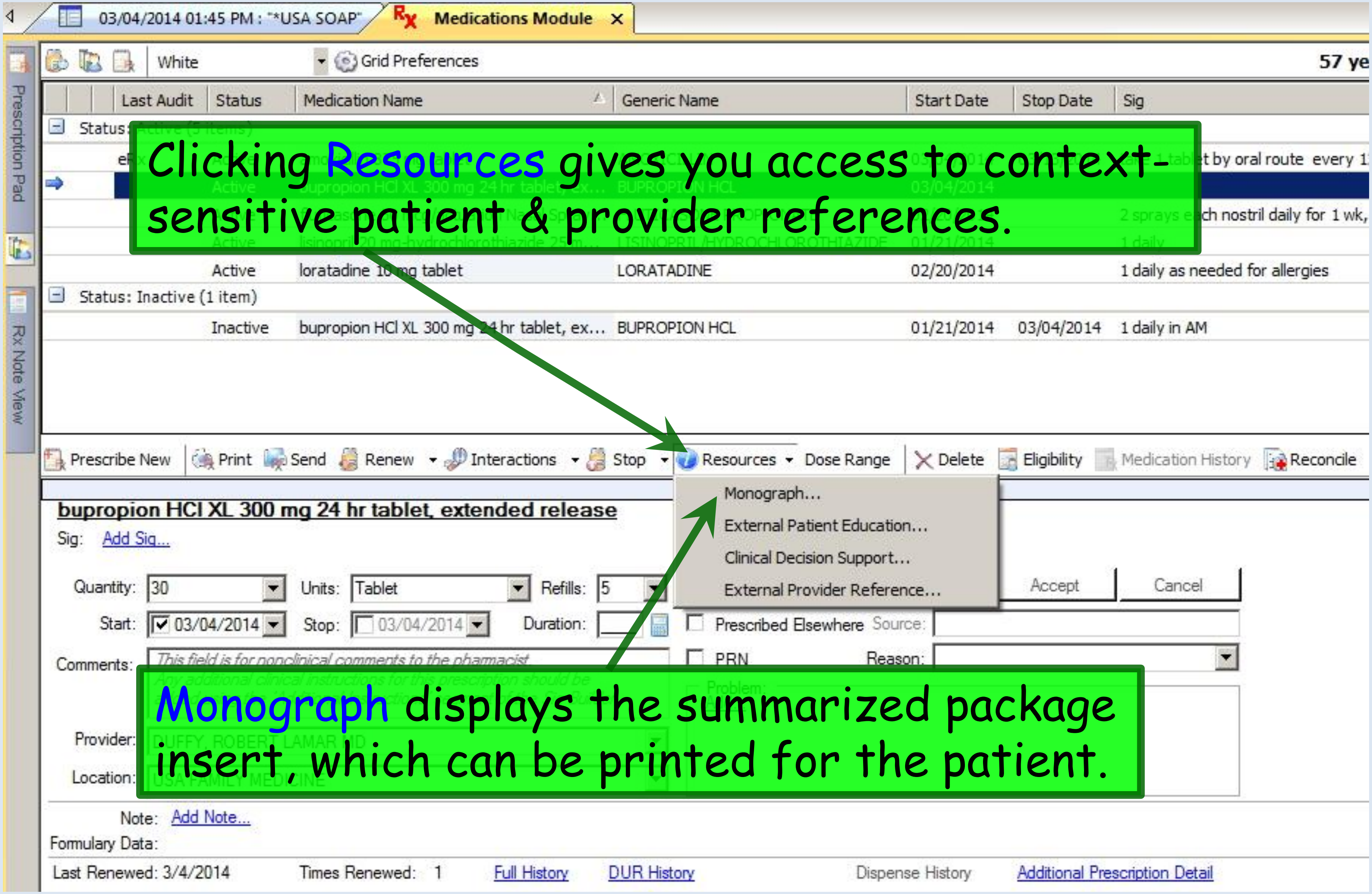

NextGen EHR: Anishabitha Quagmire MRN: 000000006227 DOB: 01/21/1970 (Female) AGE: 41 years 1 month - Medications Module
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
Logout Save Clear Delete
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR
Patient History Inbox PAQ Medications Templates Documents Images Orders Procedures Apps Close
03/04/2011 11:02 AM : "USA SOAP - OV"
Medications Module
Additional Prescription Detail
amoxicillin 875 mg Tab
Start Date : 3/4/2011
Stop Date : 3/13/2011
Quantity : 20
Print Spanish
Sample
Lot #:
Exp:
Limit Renewals
Prior Authorization
Auth Id:
Date:
Supervising Physician
<None>
Patient Condition
Additional Prescription Detail
Rx Note View
41 year Old Female Weighing 154.00 lb | 69.85 Kg
No eligibility status
Additional Prescription Detail can also be displayed.
FLUCONAZOLE 2/13/2011 03/04/2011
Interactions Stop Education Dose Range Delete Eligibility Medication History
Remove Sig
Refills: 0
Duration: 10
Dispense As Written
Prescribed Elsewhere Site:
PRN
Reason:
Accept
Cancel
Problem:
View...
Sinusitis, Acute (461.9)
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail



Note that the medication module automatically displays your patient's weight in English & metric units.

Note several other options available to you, which are relatively self-explanatory. Some of these are redundant with the SIG, but they provide you with some other work alternatives, if desired.

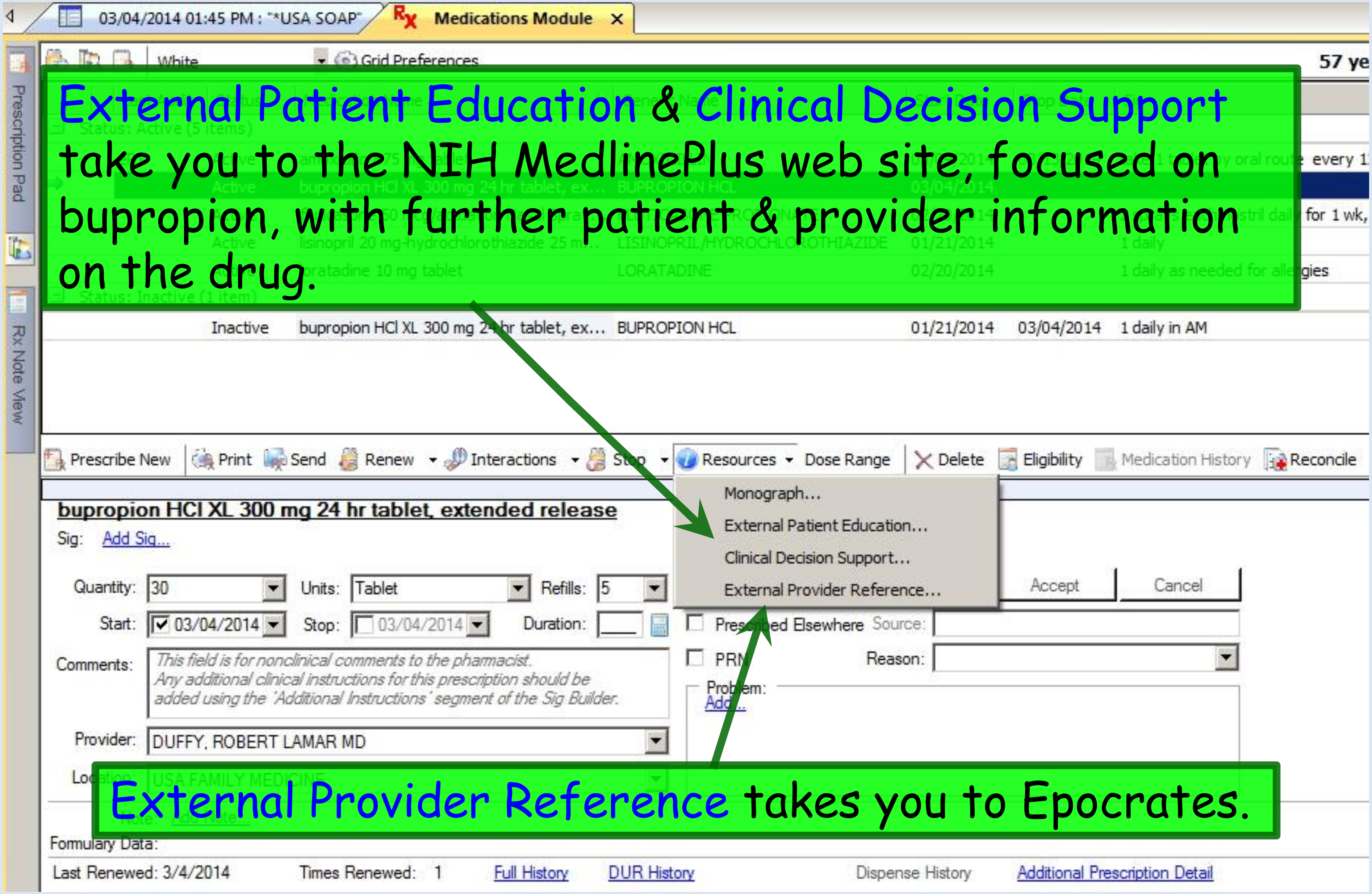




Clicking Resources gives you access to context-sensitive patient & provider references.

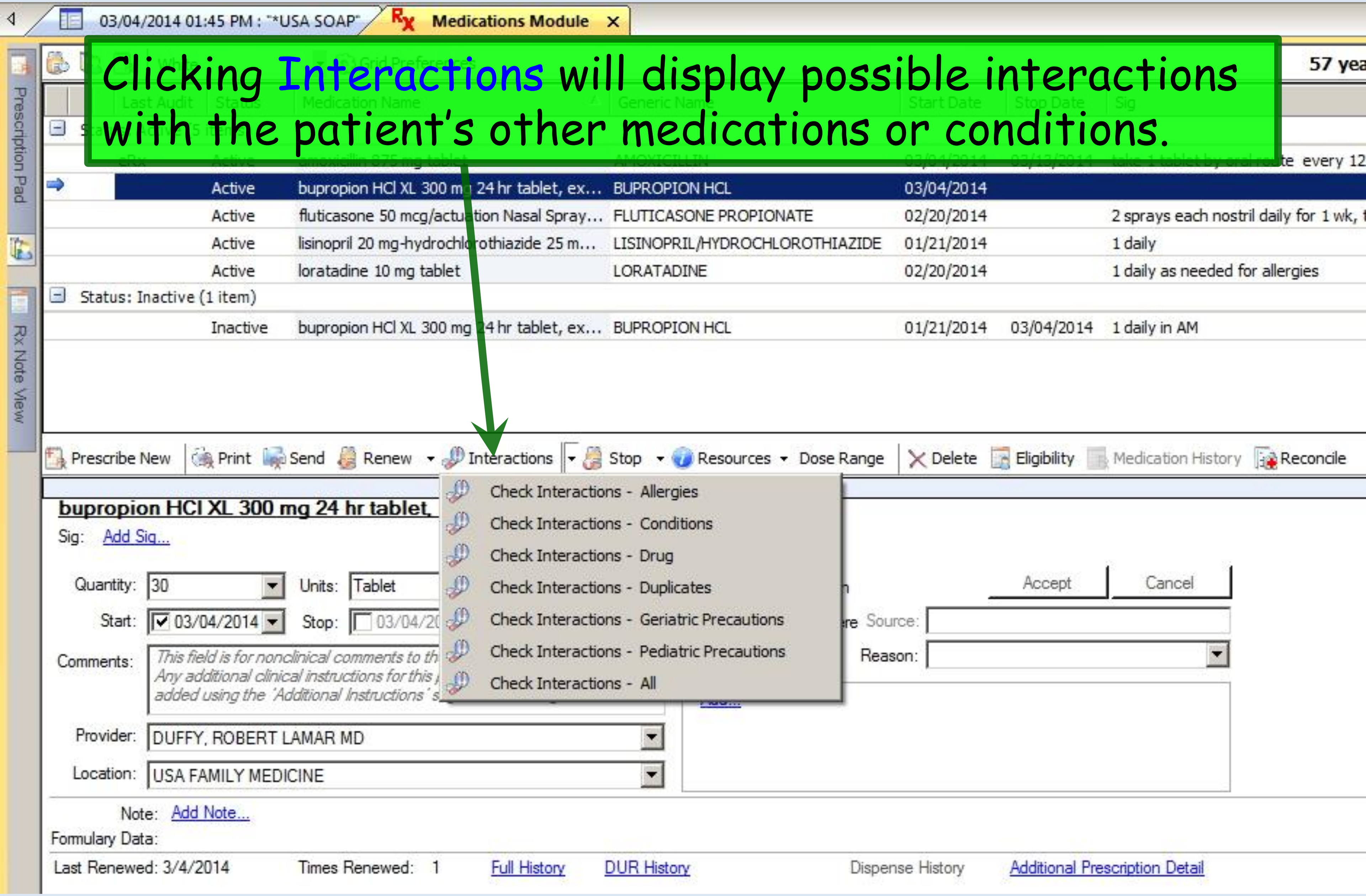
Monograph displays the summarized package insert, which can be printed for the patient.

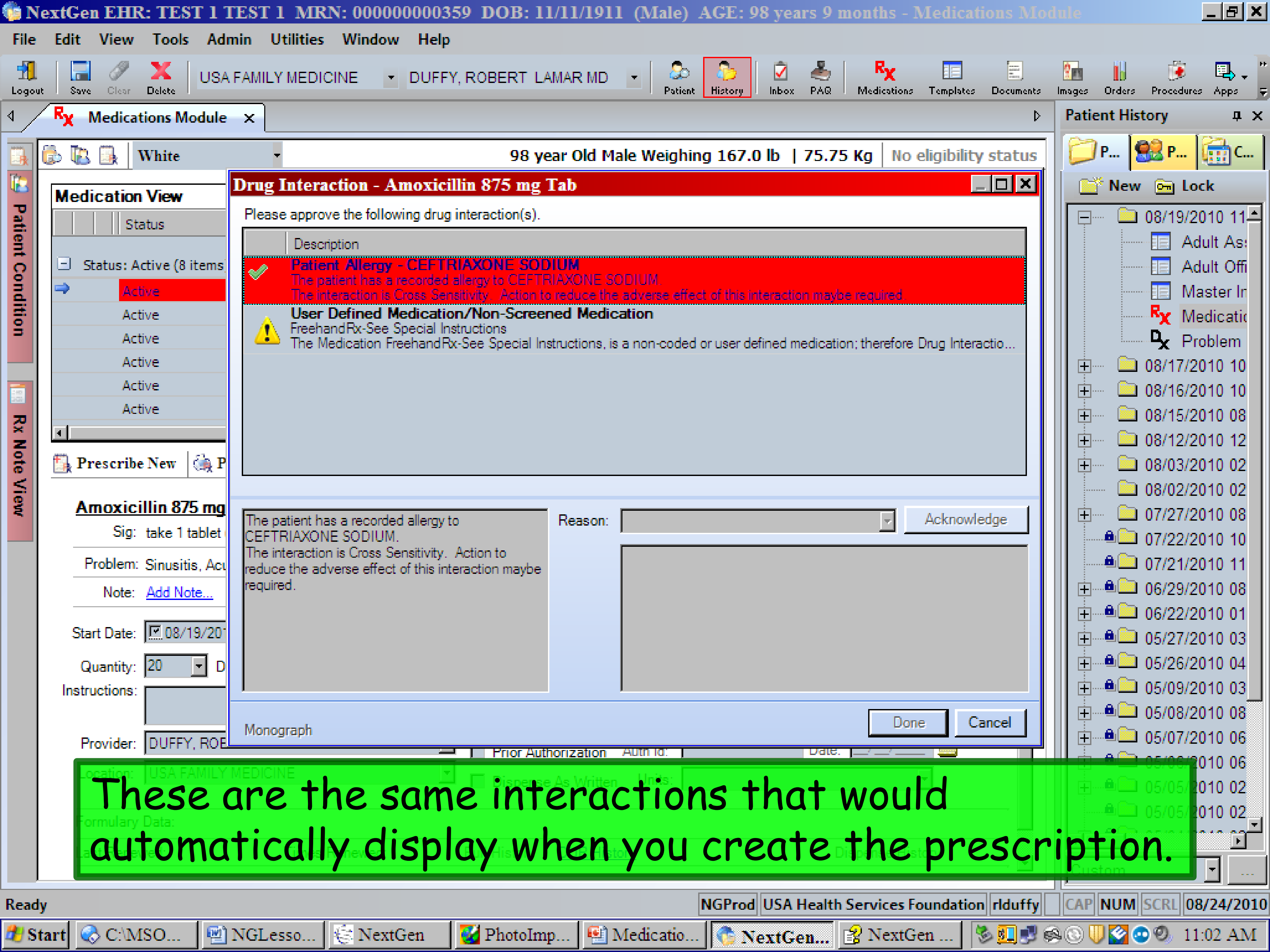
External Patient Education & Clinical Decision Support take you to the NIH MedlinePlus web site, focused on bupropion, with further patient & provider information on the drug.



External Provider Reference takes you to Epocrates.

Clicking Interactions will display possible interactions with the patient's other medications or conditions.

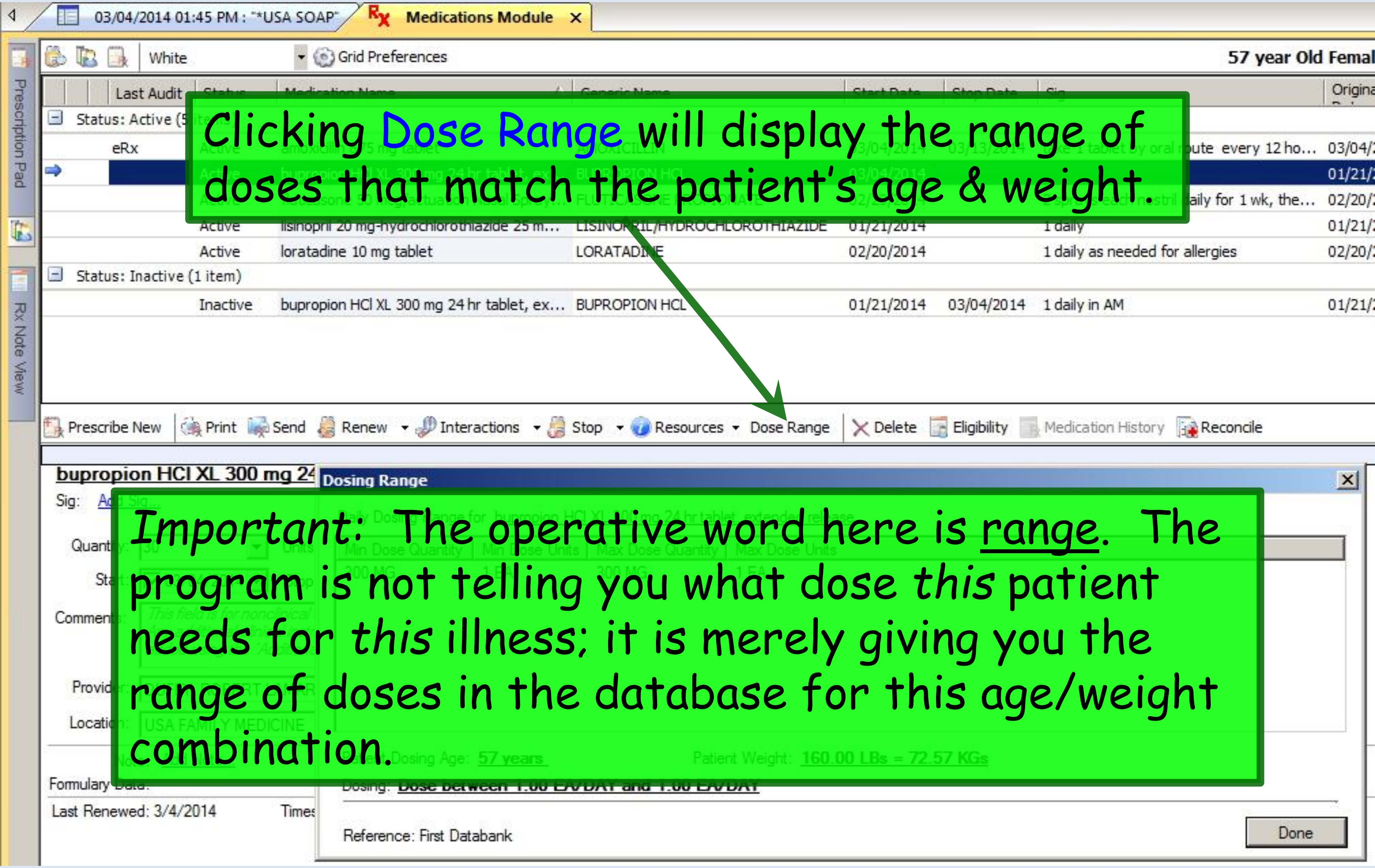




NextGen EHR: TEST 1 TEST 1 MRN: 000000000359 DOB: 11/11/1911 (Male) AGE: 98 years 9 months - Medications Module
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Medications Module
98 year Old Male Weighing 167.0 lb | 75.75 Kg
No eligibility status
Medication View
Drug Interaction - Amoxicillin 875 mg Tab
Please approve the following drug interaction(s).
Description
Patient Allergy - CEFTRIAXONE SODIUM
The patient has a recorded allergy to CEFTRIAXONE SODIUM.
The interaction is Cross Sensitivity. Action to reduce the adverse effect of this interaction maybe required
User Defined Medication/Non-Screened Medication
FreehandRx-See Special Instructions
The Medication FreehandRx-See Special Instructions, is a non-coded or user defined medication; therefore Drug Interactio...
The patient has a recorded allergy to CEFTRIAXONE SODIUM. The interaction is Cross Sensitivity. Action to reduce the adverse effect of this interaction maybe required.
Reason:
Acknowledge
Monograph
Done
Cancel
Patient History
These are the same interactions that would automatically display when you create the prescription.

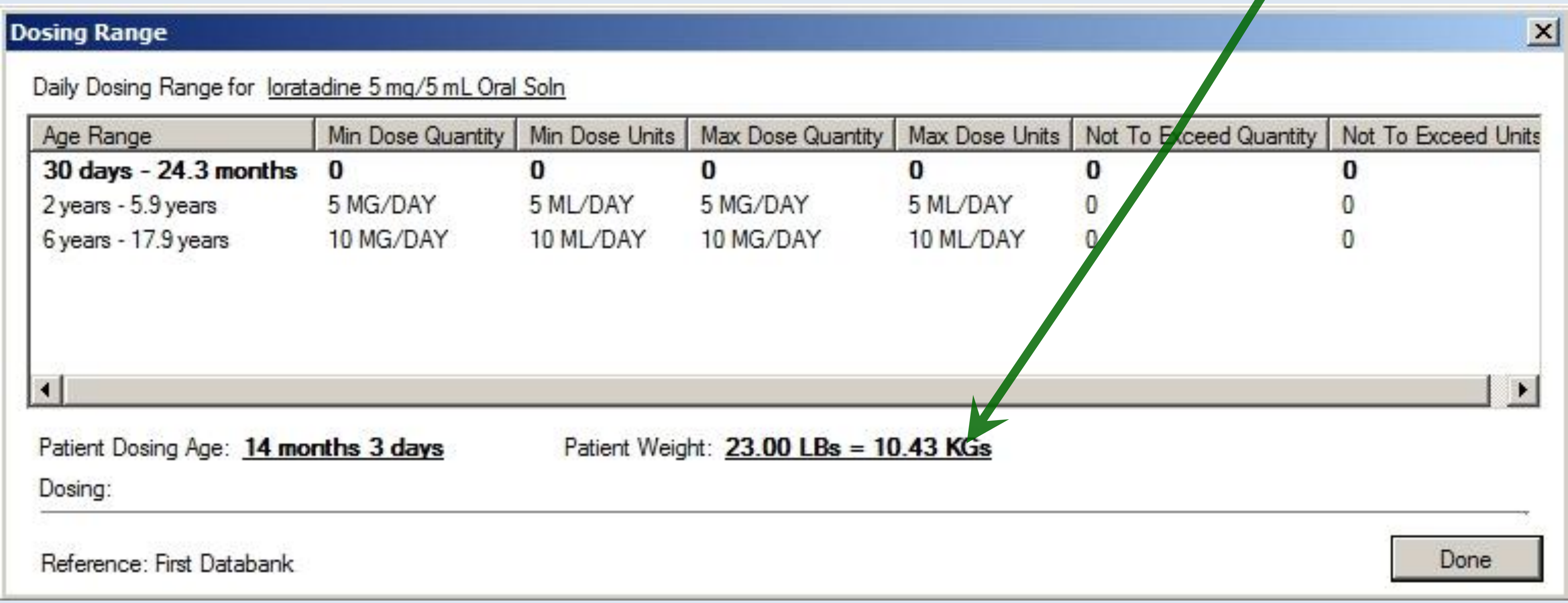
Clicking Dose Range will display the range of doses that match the patient's age & weight.

Important: The operative word here is <u>range</u>. The program is not telling you what dose *this* patient needs for *this* illness; it is merely giving you the range of doses in the database for this age/weight combination.



You get more details for children.

You can also change the child's weight here & recalculate dosing (though that shouldn't be necessary if it has already been entered correctly).



Dosing Range

Daily Dosing Range for loratadine 5 mg/5 mL Oral Soln

Age Range	Min Dose Quantity	Min Dose Units	Max Dose Quantity	Max Dose Units	Not To Exceed Quantity	Not To Exceed Units
30 days - 24.3 months	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
2 years - 5.9 years	5 MG/DAY	5 ML/DAY	5 MG/DAY	5 ML/DAY	0	0
6 years - 17.9 years	10 MG/DAY	10 ML/DAY	10 MG/DAY	10 ML/DAY	0	0

Patient Dosing Age: **14 months 3 days** Patient Weight: **23.00 LBs = 10.43 KGs**

Dosing:

Reference: First Databank

Done

NextGen EHR: Zack Z Quagmire MRN: 000000000508 DOB: 03/03/2005 (Male) AGE: 5 years 5 months - Medications Module

File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help

Logout Save Clear Delete USA FAMILY MEDICINE DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD Patient History Inbox PAQ Templates Documents Medications ICS Apps Close

07/26/2010 11:25 AM : "Record Vital Signs" Medications Module

NextGen 5 year Old Male Weighing 40.0 lb | 18.14 Kg

Patient History

New Lock

Medication View

Dosing Range

Daily Dosing Range for Amoxicillin 400MG Oral Tablet, Chewable

Age Range	Min Dose Quantity	Min Dose Units	Max Dose Quantity	Max Dose Units	Not To Exceed Quantity	Not To Exceed Units
30 days - 90 days	20 MG/KG/DAY	0.05 EA/KG/DAY	30 MG/KG/DAY	0.075 EA/KG/DAY	0	0
3.0 months - 12.1 months	20 MG/KG/DAY	0.05 EA/KG/DAY	45 MG/KG/DAY	0.1125 EA/KG/DAY	0	0
12.1 months - 12.9 y...	**20 MG/KG/DAY**	**0.05 EA/KG/DAY**	**90 MG/KG/DAY**	**0.225 EA/KG/DAY**	**3000 MG/DAY**	**7.5 EA/DAY**
13 years - 17.9 years	20 MG/KG/DAY	0.05 EA/KG/DAY	45 MG/KG/DAY	0.1125 EA/KG/DAY	3000 MG/DAY	7.5 EA/DAY

Patient Dosing Age: 5 years Patient Weight: 40 LBs = 18.14 KGs Recalculate Dosing

Dosing: Dose between 362.87 MG/DAY and 1632.93 MG/DAY

Reference: First Databank Done

Prescribed Elsewhere Site:

Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD Prior Authorization Auth Id: Date: __/__/____

Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE

Custom

Formulary Data:

Last Renewed:

Accept Cancel

But note there may still a wide dosing range, so you mainly want to use this as a double-check.

Ready USA Health Services Foundation rlduffy CAP NUM SCRL 08/24/2010

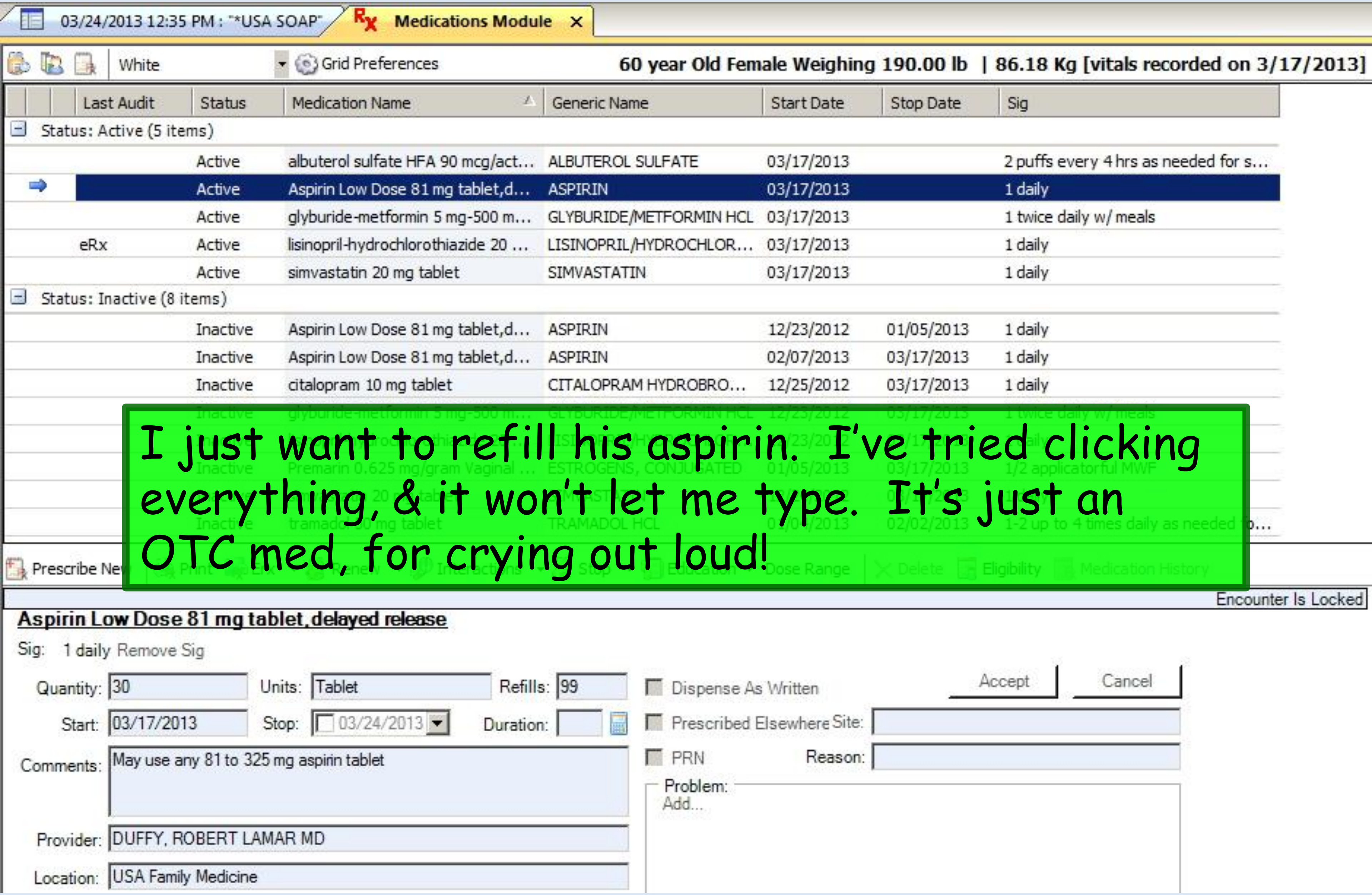
Start C:\MSO... NGLesso... NextGen PhotoImp... Medicatio... Monopril ... NextGen... 11:38 AM

Miscellaneous Problems: Assorted tips & tricks

Some of the things that get in the way of successfully prescribing a medication, & ways to work around them.

I want to refill something already on the medication list.

Why won't it let me?

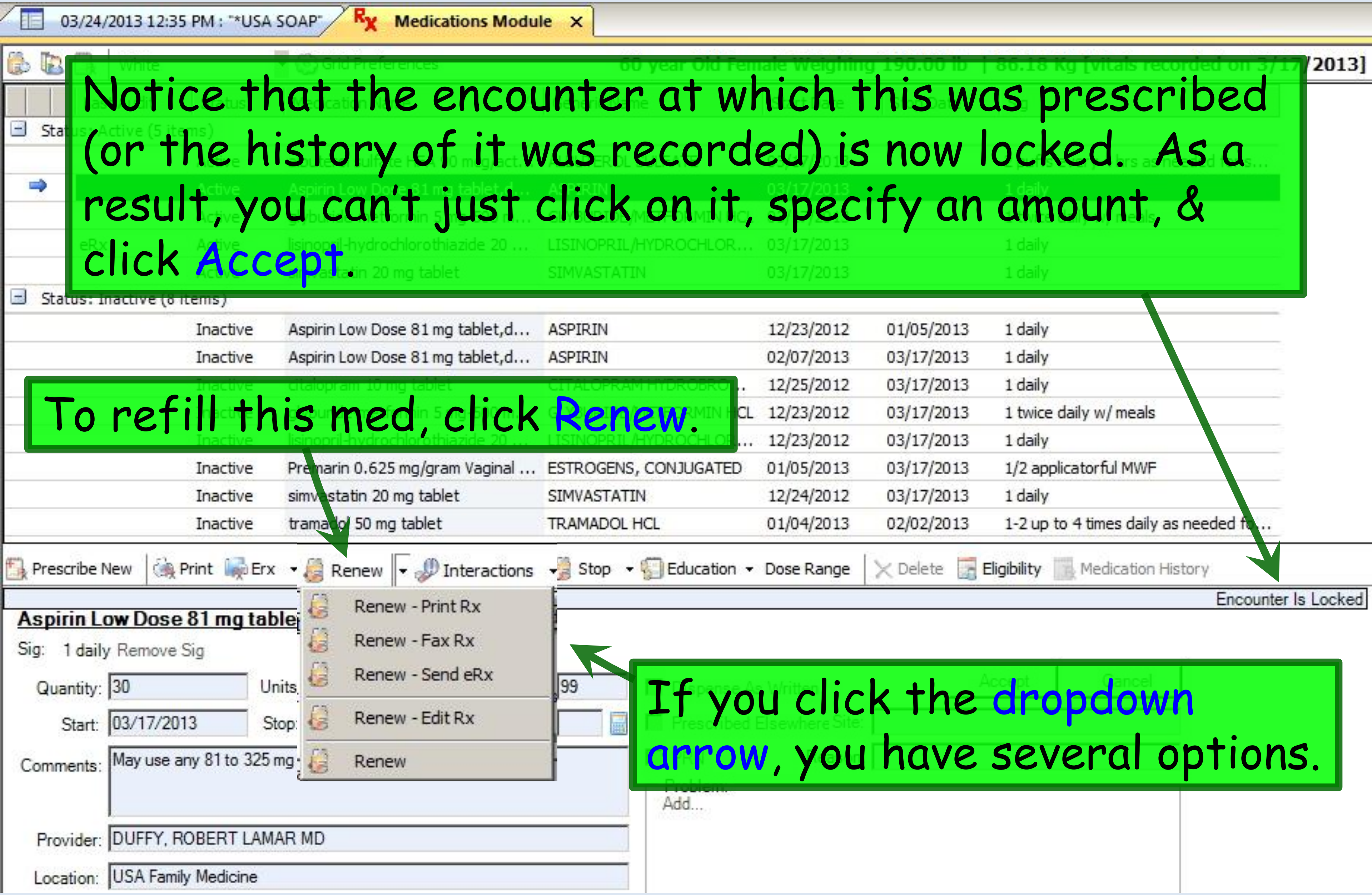


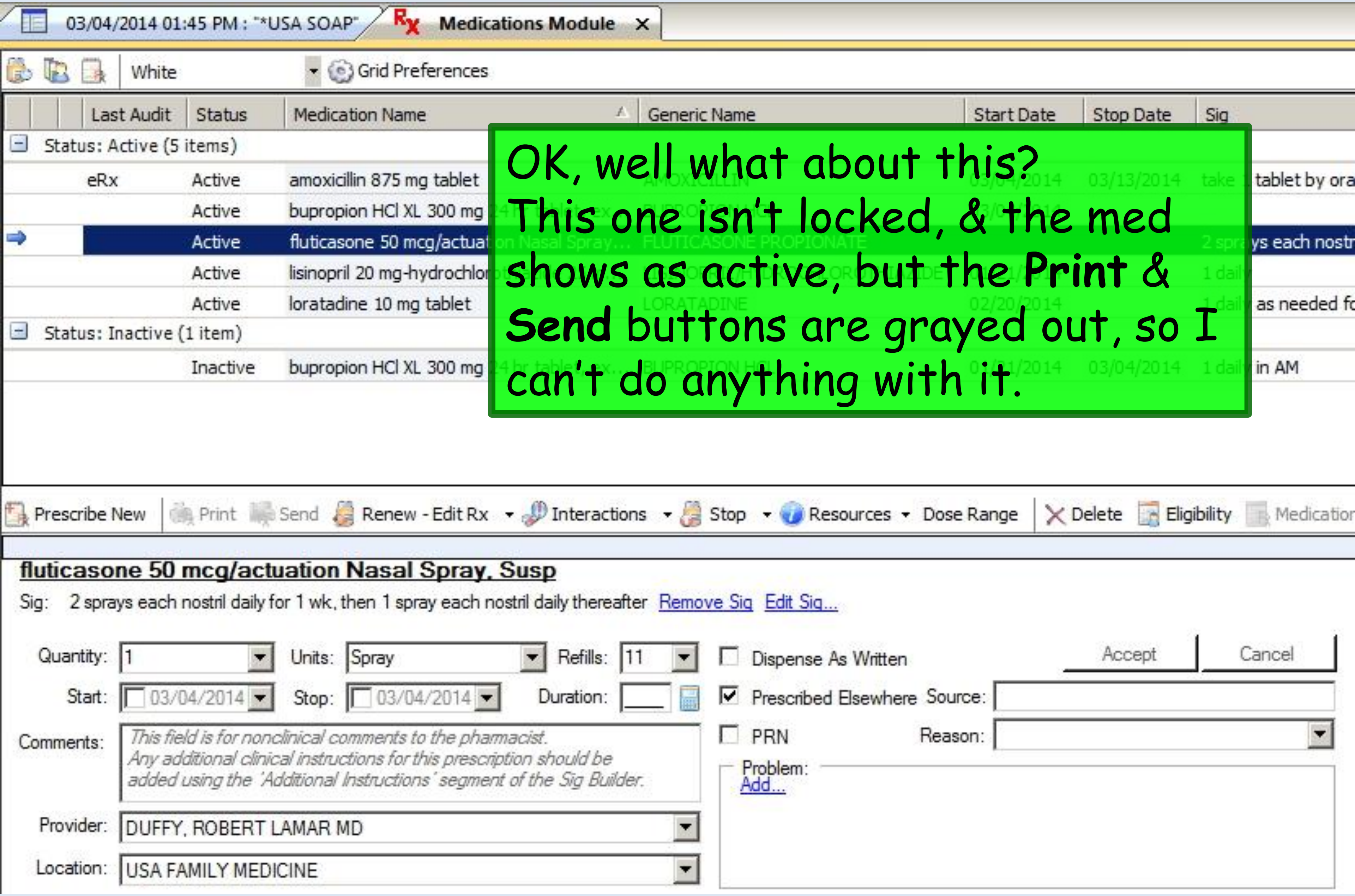
I just want to refill his aspirin. I've tried clicking everything, & it won't let me type. It's just an OTC med, for crying out loud!

Notice that the encounter at which this was prescribed (or the history of it was recorded) is now locked. As a result, you can't just click on it, specify an amount, & click Accept.

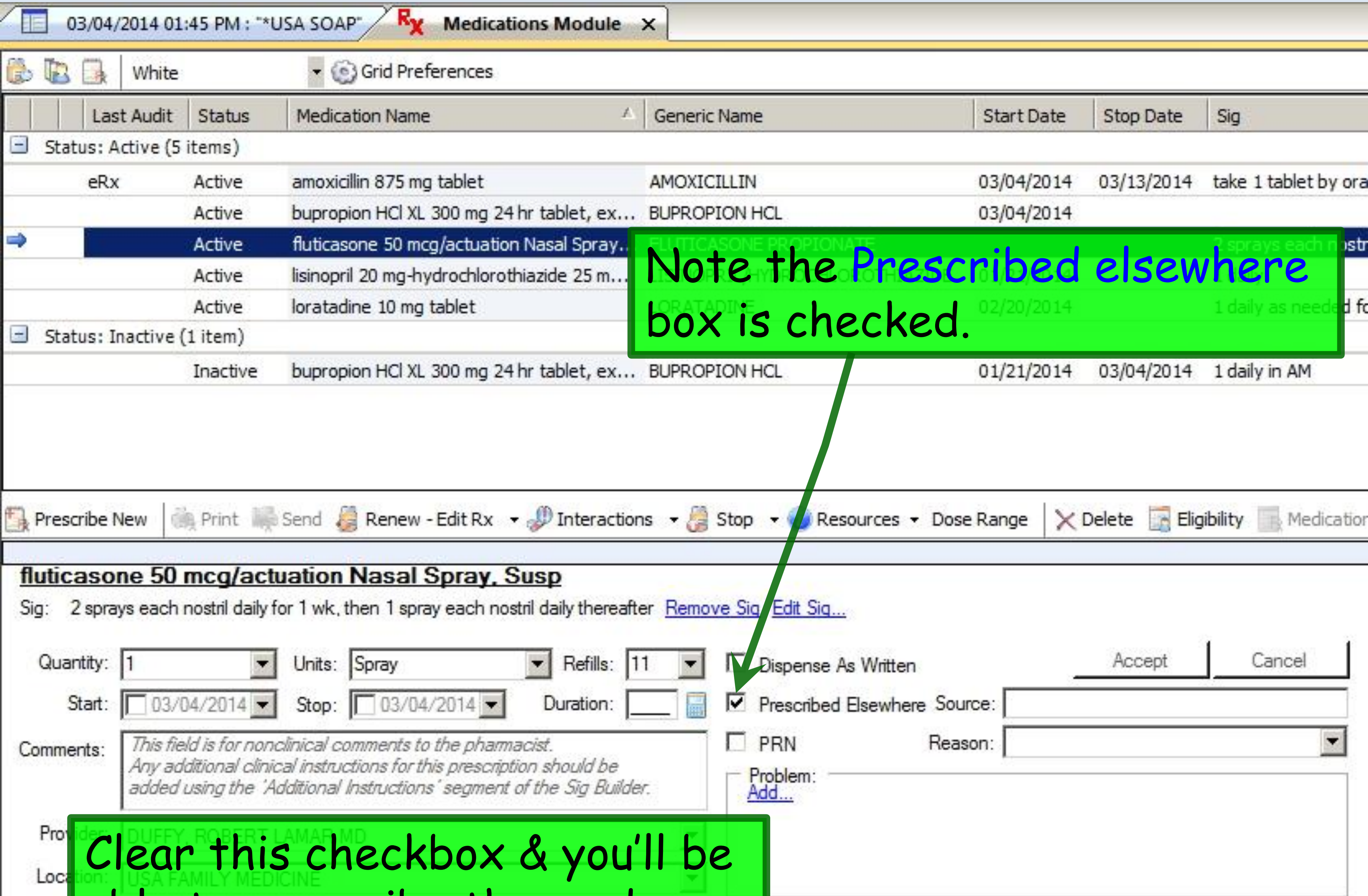
To refill this med, click Renew.

If you click the dropdown arrow, you have several options.



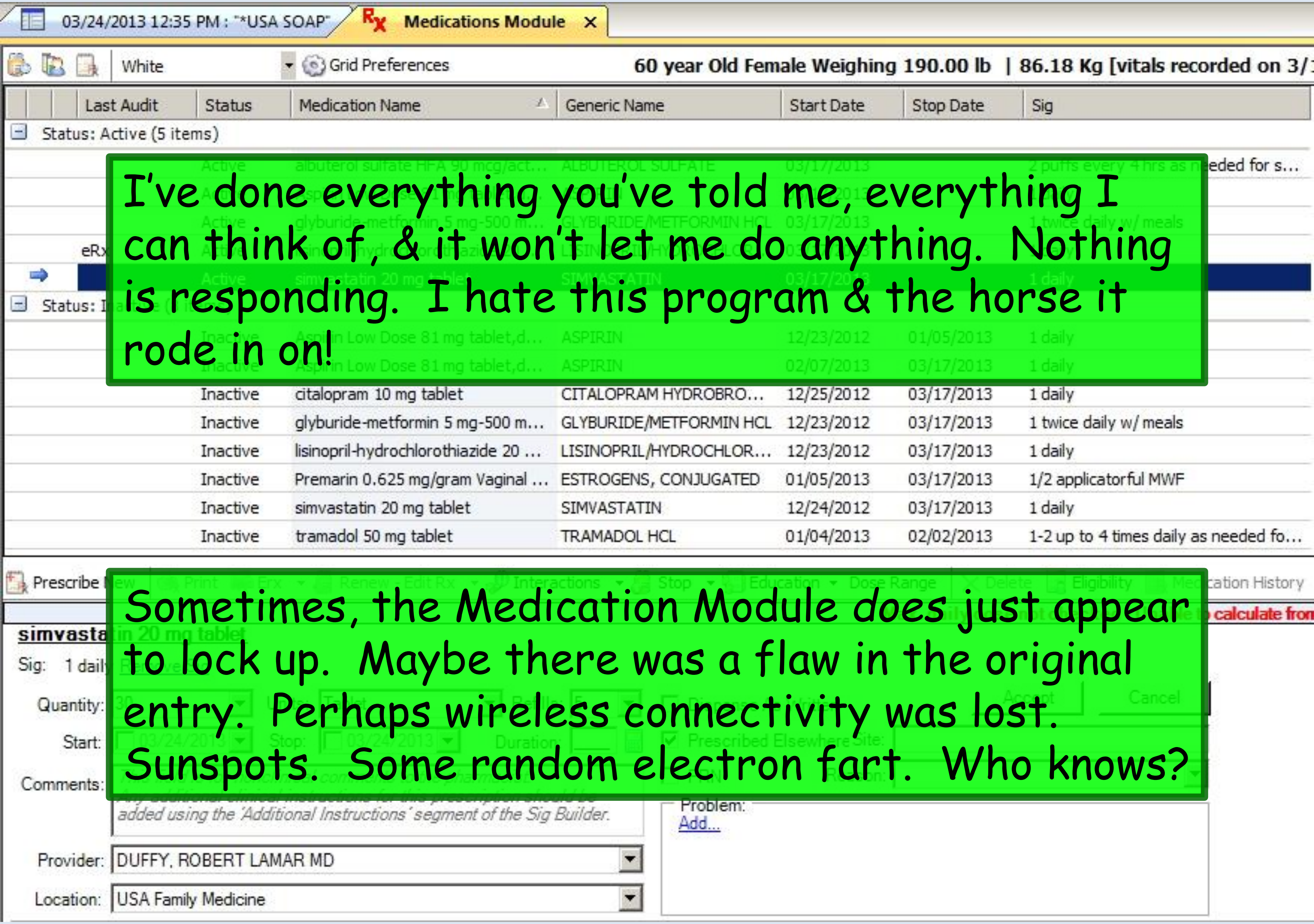


OK, well what about this? This one isn't locked, & the med shows as active, but the **Print** & **Send** buttons are grayed out, so I can't do anything with it.



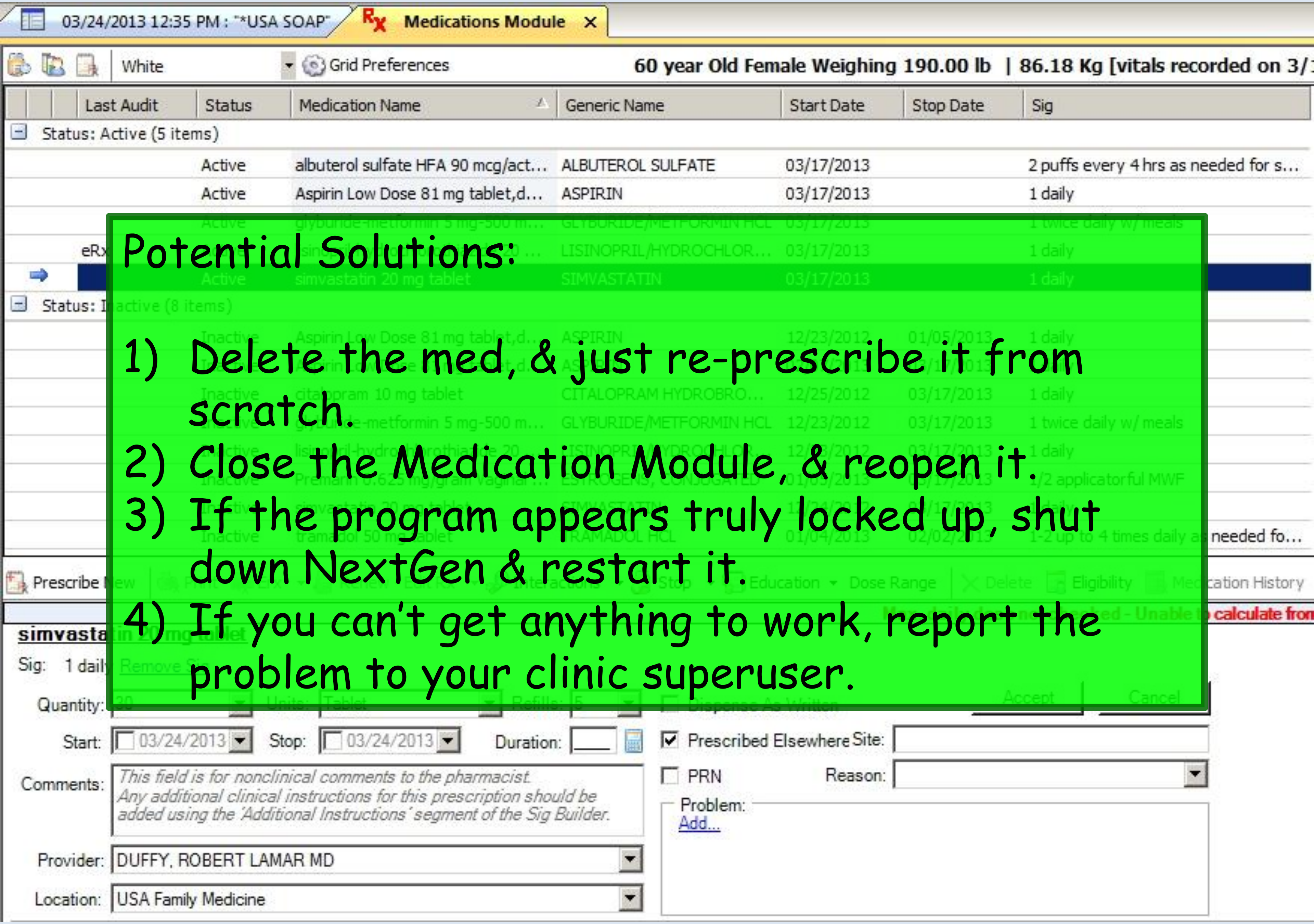
Note the Prescribed elsewhere box is checked.

Clear this checkbox & you'll be able to prescribe the med.



I've done everything you've told me, everything I can think of, & it won't let me do anything. Nothing is responding. I hate this program & the horse it rode in on!

Sometimes, the Medication Module *does* just appear to lock up. Maybe there was a flaw in the original entry. Perhaps wireless connectivity was lost. Sunspots. Some random electron fart. Who knows?

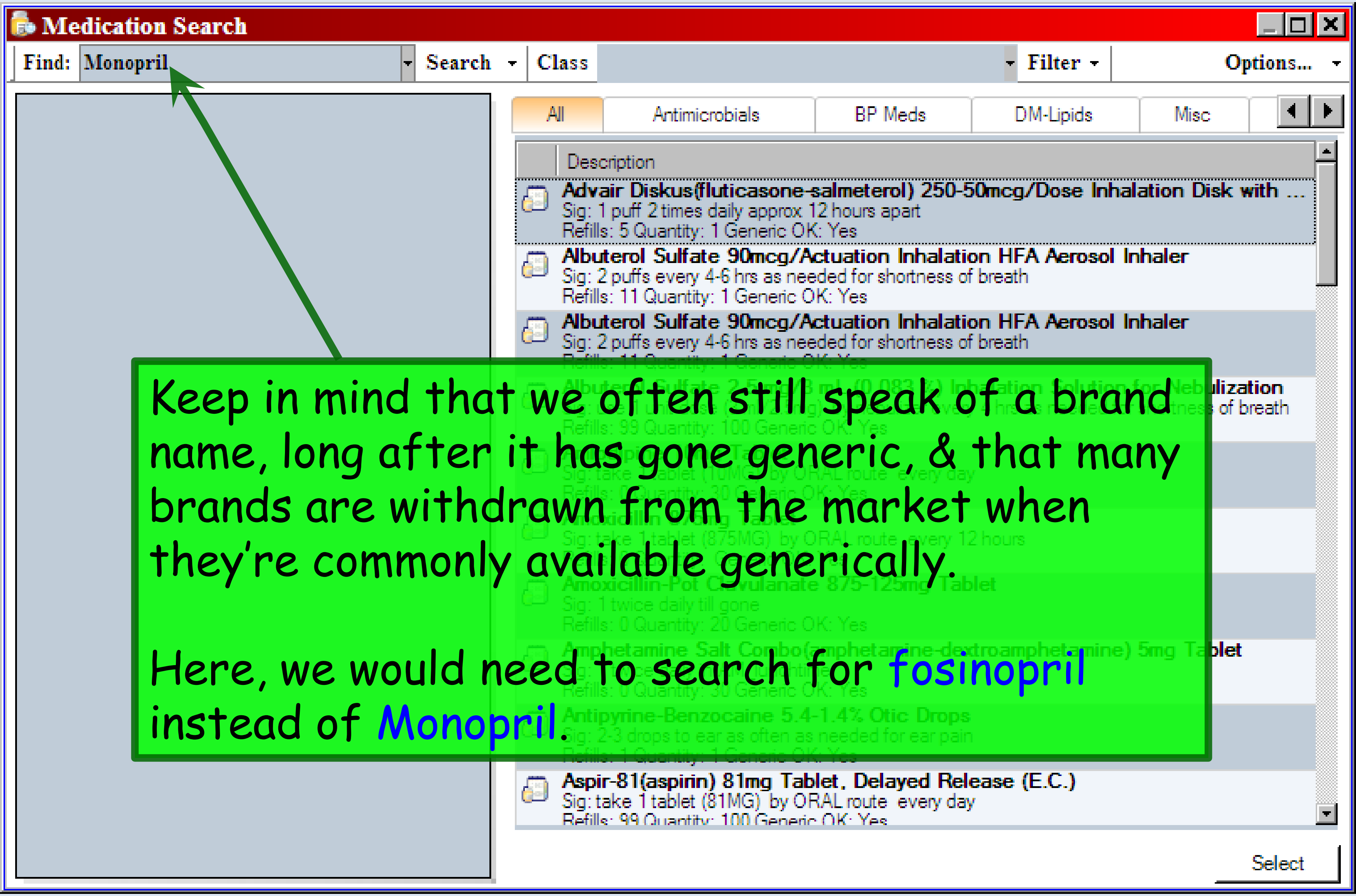


Potential Solutions:

1) Delete the med, & just re-prescribe it from scratch.
2) Close the Medication Module, & reopen it.
3) If the program appears truly locked up, shut down NextGen & restart it.
4) If you can't get anything to work, report the problem to your clinic superuser.

I’m searching for xxxxxx. It’s a common medicine that she’s been on for years.

Why won’t it display?



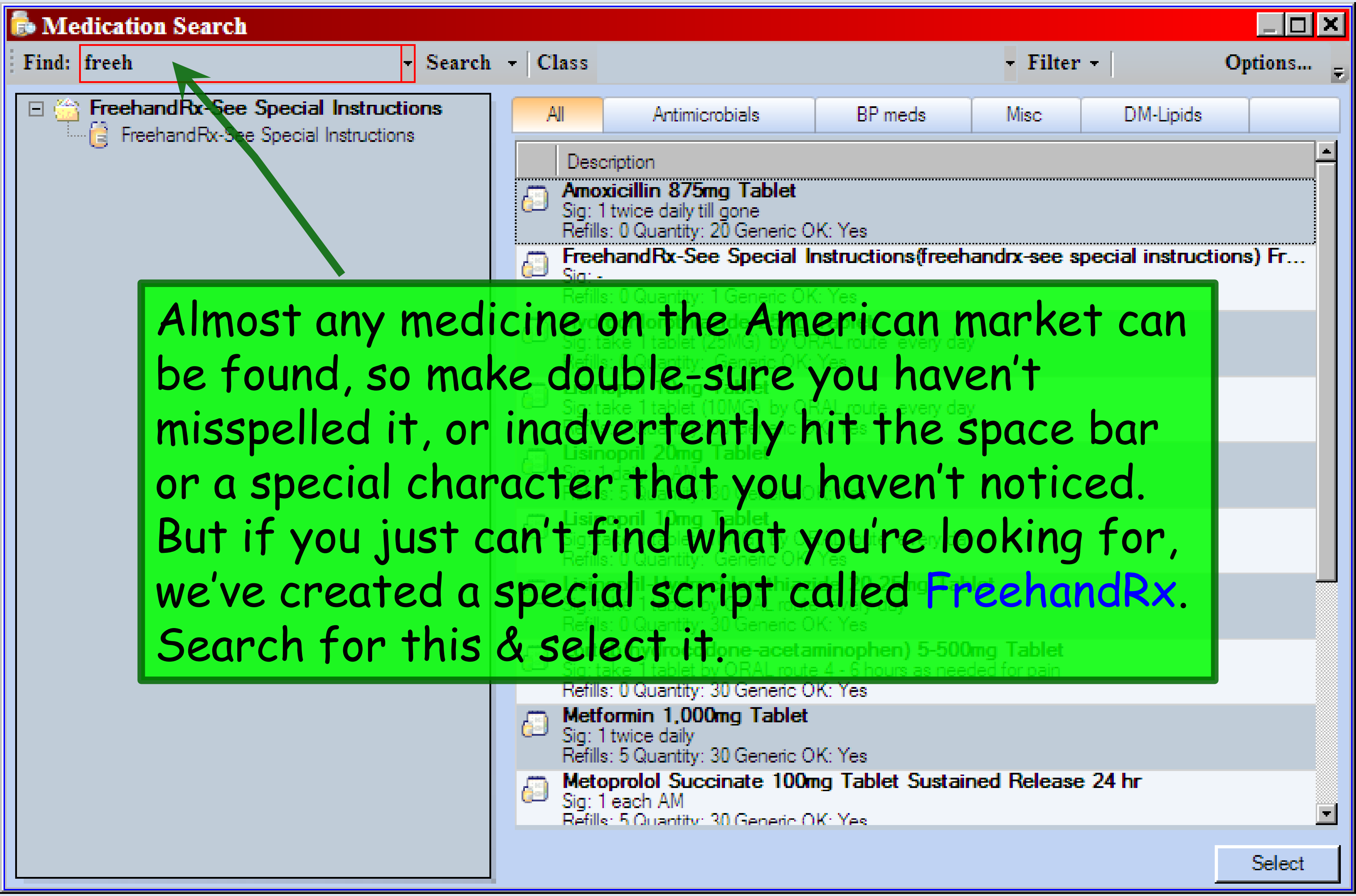
Keep in mind that we often still speak of a brand name, long after it has gone generic, & that many brands are withdrawn from the market when they're commonly available generically.

Here, we would need to search for fosinopril instead of Monopril.

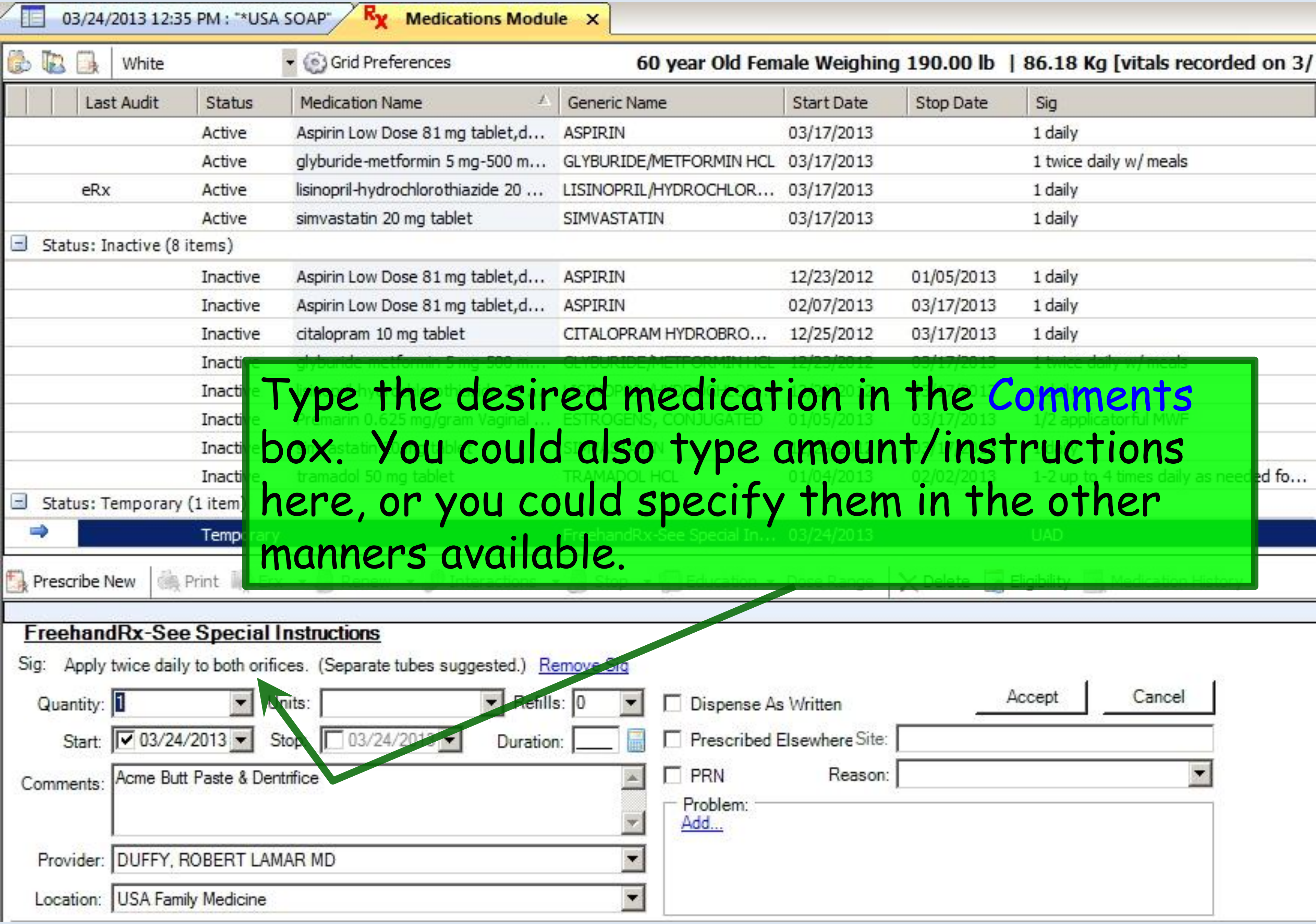
I can’t find the medication I want to give.

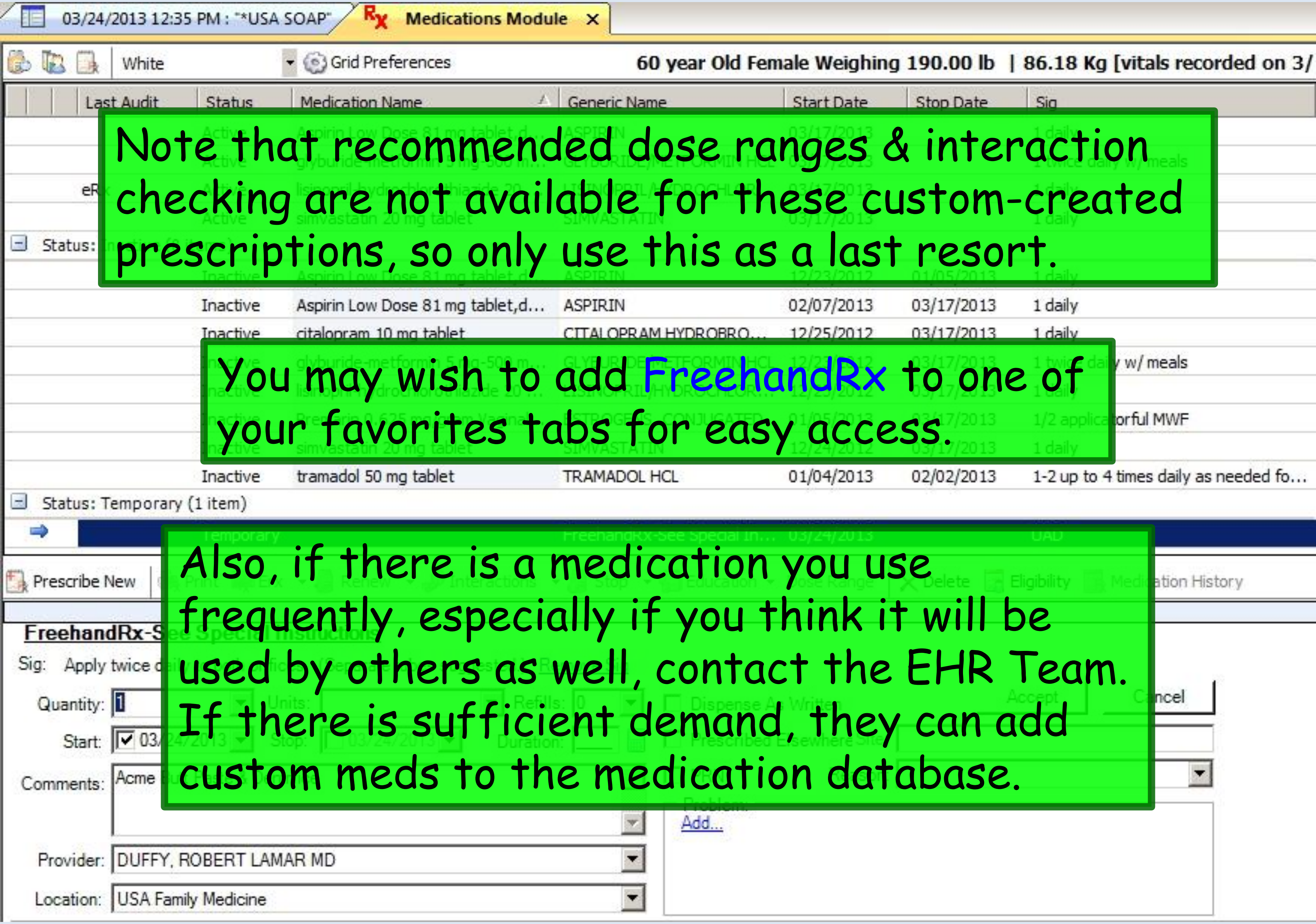
I’ve searched by brand & generic name. I’ve tried several spellings.

What do I do now?



Almost any medicine on the American market can be found, so make double-sure you haven't misspelled it, or inadvertently hit the space bar or a special character that you haven't noticed. But if you just can't find what you're looking for, we've created a special script called FreehandRx. Search for this & select it.


03/24/2013 12:35 PM : "*USA SOAP"
Medications Module
White
Grid Preferences
60 year Old Female Weighing 190.00 lb | 86.18 Kg [vitals recorded on 3/
Last Audit
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Sig
Active Aspirin Low Dose 81 mg tablet,d... ASPIRIN 03/17/2013 1 daily
Active glyburide-metformin 5 mg-500 m... GLYBURIDE/METFORMIN HCL 03/17/2013 1 twice daily w/ meals
eRx Active lisinopril-hydrochlorothiazide 20 ... LISINOPRIL/HYDROCHLOR... 03/17/2013 1 daily
Active simvastatin 20 mg tablet SIMVASTATIN 03/17/2013 1 daily
Status: Inactive (8 items)
Inactive Aspirin Low Dose 81 mg tablet,d... ASPIRIN 12/23/2012 01/05/2013 1 daily
Inactive Aspirin Low Dose 81 mg tablet,d... ASPIRIN 02/07/2013 03/17/2013 1 daily
Inactive citalopram 10 mg tablet CITALOPRAM HYDROBRO... 12/25/2012 03/17/2013 1 daily
Status: Temporary (1 item)
Type the desired medication in the Comments box. You could also type amount/instructions here, or you could specify them in the other manners available.
Prescribe New
Print
FreehandRx-See Special Instructions
Sig: Apply twice daily to both orifices. (Separate tubes suggested.) Remove Sig
Quantity: 1
Units:
Refills: 0
Dispense As Written
Accept
Cancel
Start: 03/24/2013
Stop: 03/24/2013
Duration:
Prescribed Elsewhere Site:
Comments: Acme Butt Paste & Dentrifice
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA Family Medicine



Note that recommended dose ranges & interaction checking are not available for these custom-created prescriptions, so only use this as a last resort.

You may wish to add FreehandRx to one of your favorites tabs for easy access.

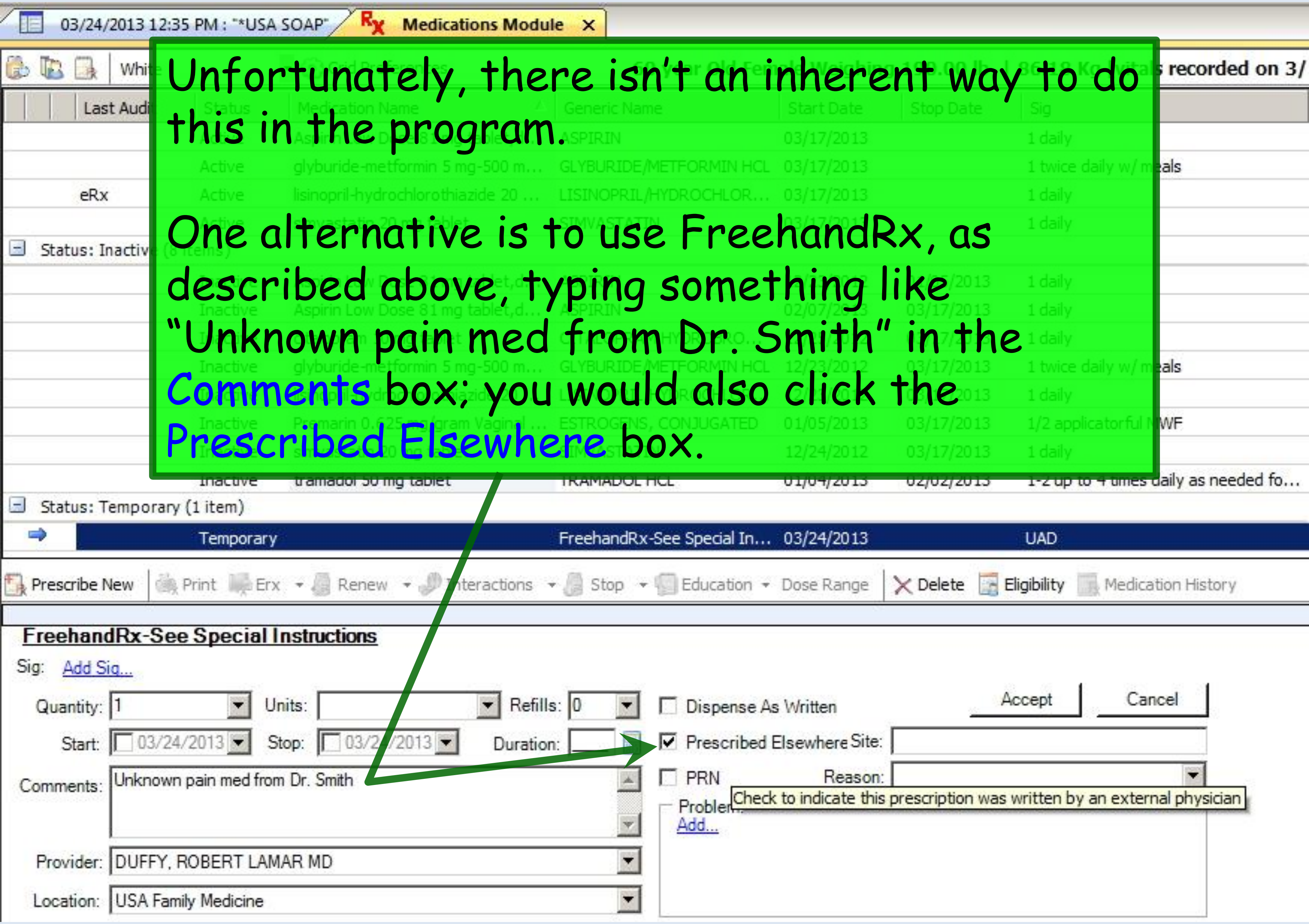
Also, if there is a medication you use frequently, especially if you think it will be used by others as well, contact the EHR Team. If there is sufficient demand, they can add custom meds to the medication database.

The patient tells me she is taking a [birth control/BP/diabetes/pain/etc.] pill, but doesn't know the name of it.

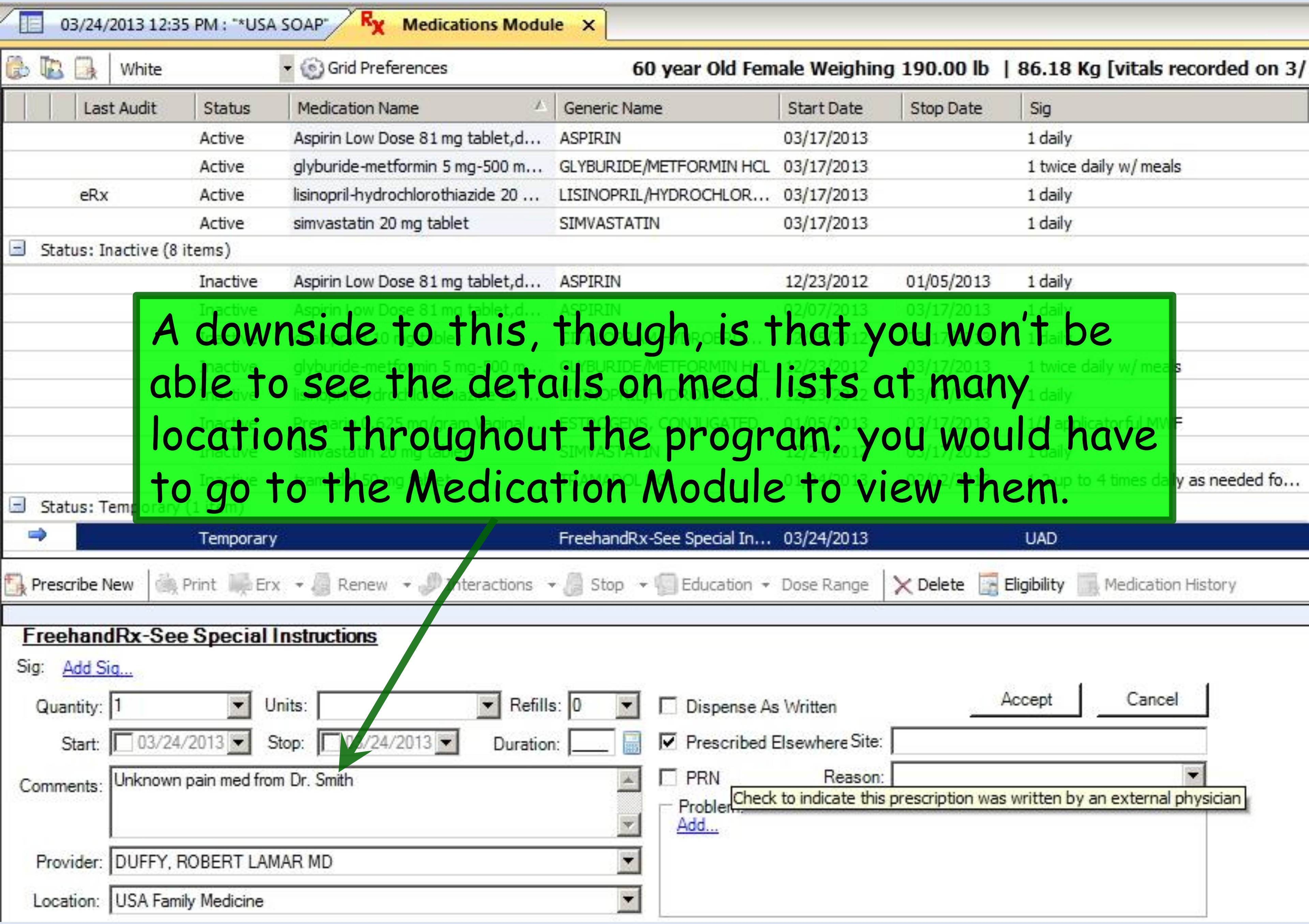
How do I enter that history?

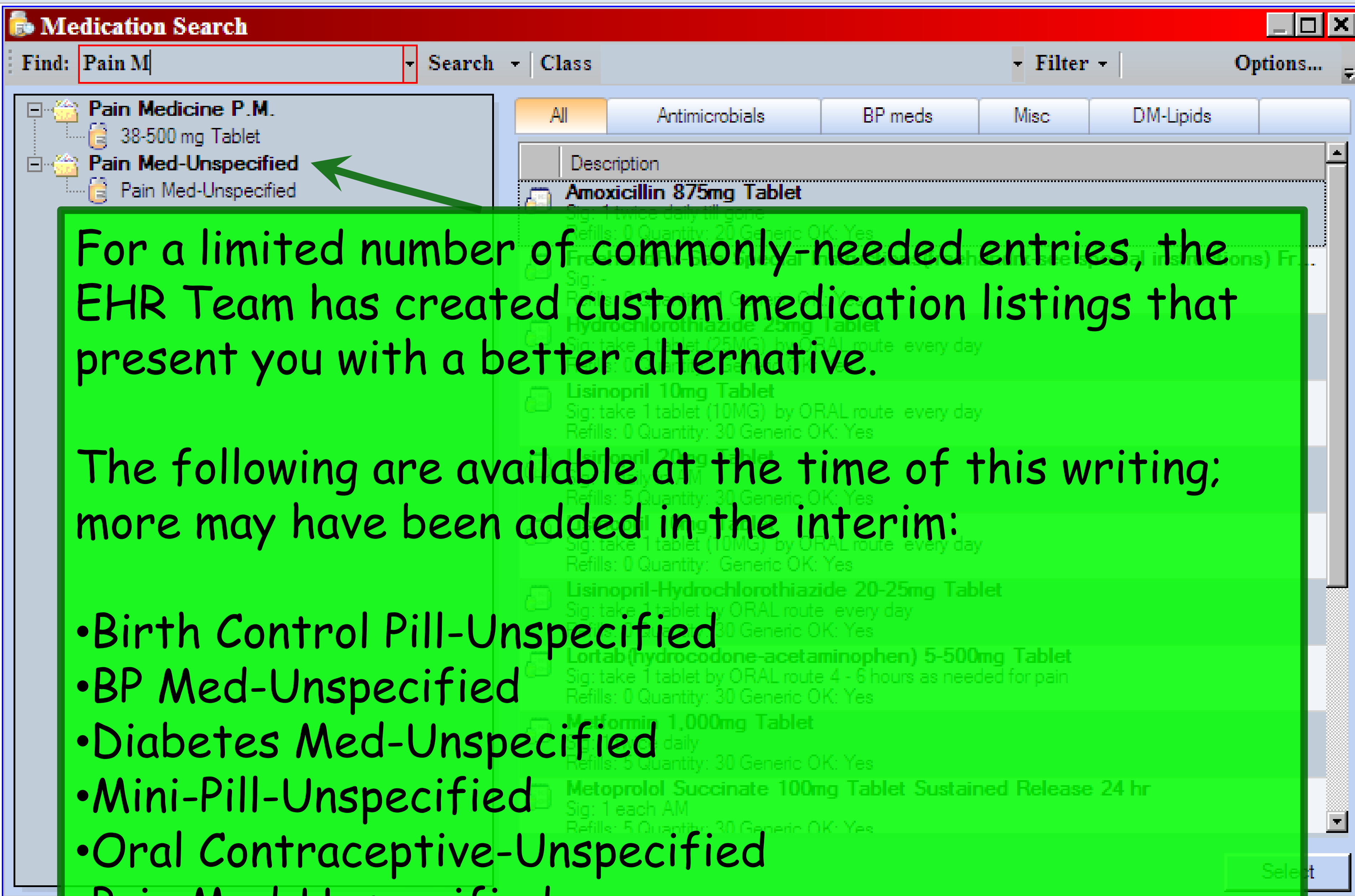
Unfortunately, there isn't an inherent way to do this in the program.

One alternative is to use FreehandRx, as described above, typing something like "Unknown pain med from Dr. Smith" in the Comments box; you would also click the Prescribed Elsewhere box.



A downside to this, though, is that you won't be able to see the details on med lists at many locations throughout the program; you would have to go to the Medication Module to view them.

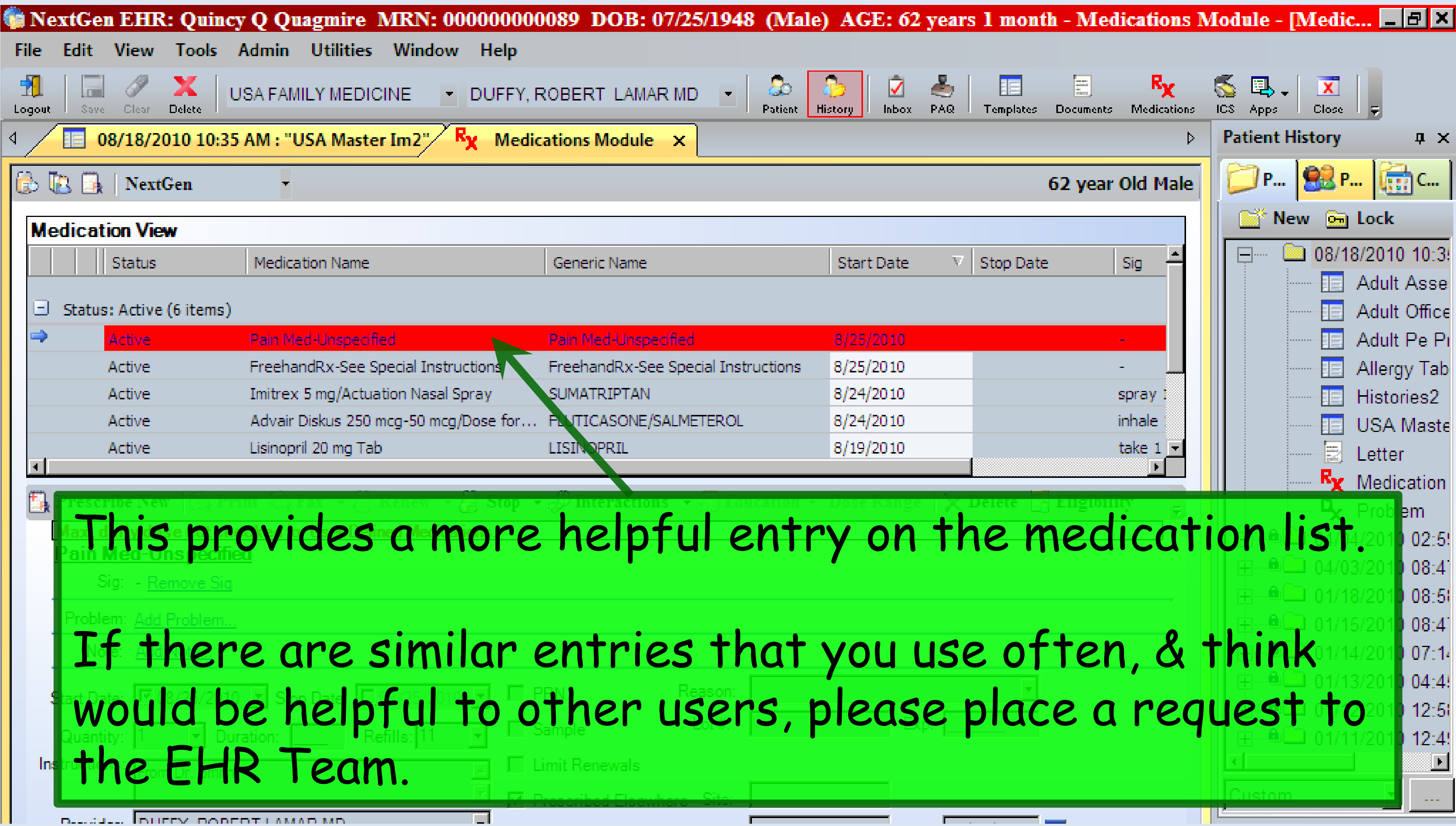




For a limited number of commonly-needed entries, the EHR Team has created custom medication listings that present you with a better alternative.

The following are available at the time of this writing; more may have been added in the interim:

- Birth Control Pill-Unspecified
- BP Med-Unspecified
- Diabetes Med-Unspecified
- Mini-Pill-Unspecified
- Oral Contraceptive-Unspecified
- Pain Med-Unspecified

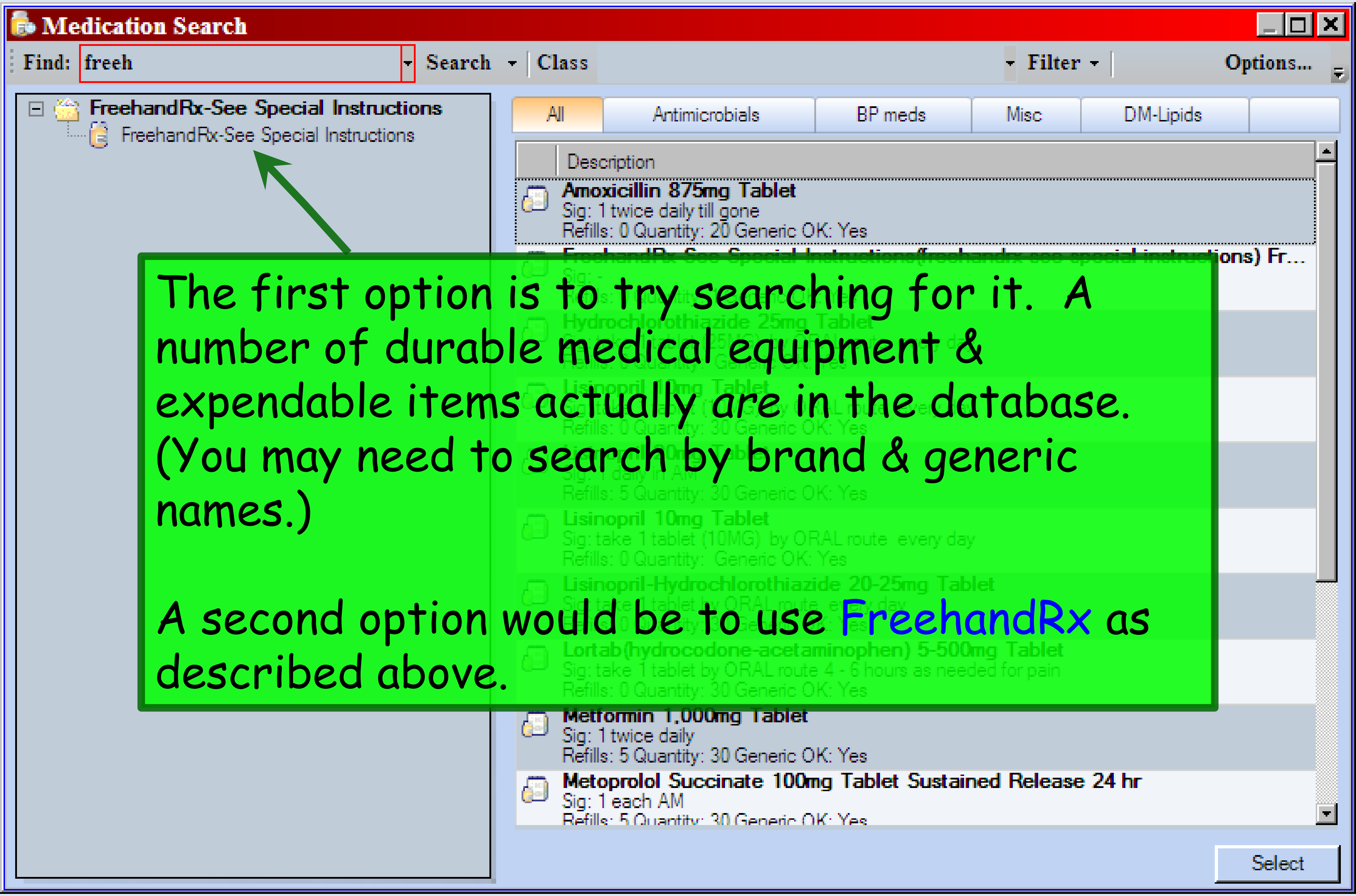


This provides a more helpful entry on the medication list.

If there are similar entries that you use often, & think would be helpful to other users, please place a request to the EHR Team.

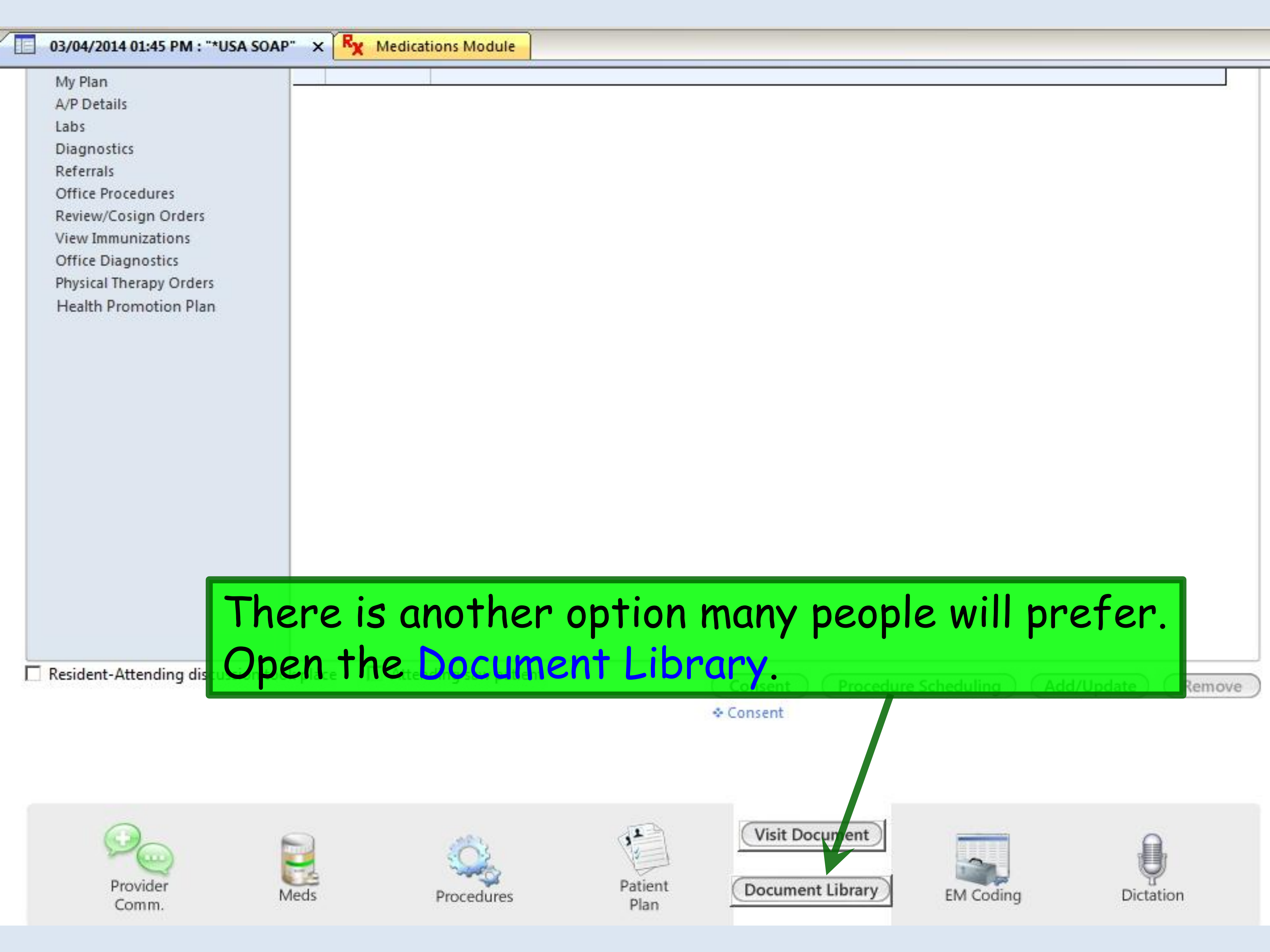
I want to write a script for crutches, a splint, bandage material, etc. Surely these aren't in the Medication module.

What are my options?



The first option is to try searching for it. A number of durable medical equipment & expendable items actually *are* in the database. (You may need to search by brand & generic names.)

A second option would be to use FreehandRx as described above.


03/04/2014 01:45 PM : "*USA SOAP"
Medications Module
My Plan
A/P Details
Labs
Diagnostics
Referrals
Office Procedures
Review/Cosign Orders
View Immunizations
Office Diagnostics
Physical Therapy Orders
Health Promotion Plan
There is another option many people will prefer.
Open the Document Library.
Consent
Provider Comm.
Meds
Procedures
Patient Plan
Visit Document
Document Library
EM Coding
Dictation

Click Durable Medical Equipment Order.

USA Family Medicine
1504 Springhill Ave Ste 1800
Mobile, AL 366043273

Durable Medical Equipment Order Form

Date of Service: June 14, 2013

Patient: BBBBB AATestRLDAdultFemale
Address: 555 Beehive Drive

Mobile, AL 36604-

Assesment
(466.0) Bronchitis
(305.1) Tobacco Abuse

Rx:

Nebulizer

Name, date, & today's diagnoses display. Type in the desired item & print or fax as desired.

This also keeps the Medication List from getting littered with items that aren't medications.

Physician Signature: ______________________________

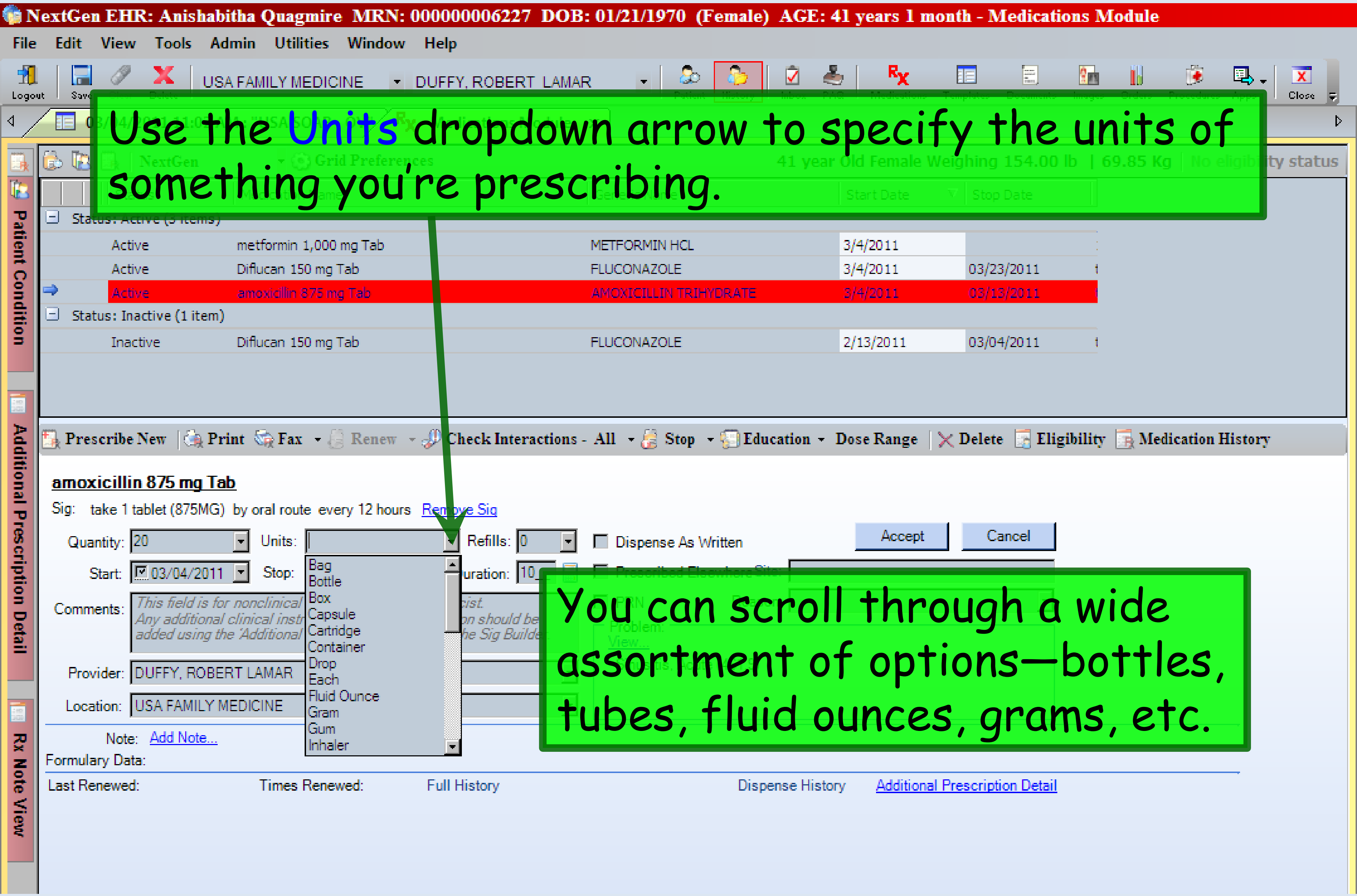
Physician UPIN number:
Date: 06/14/2013

Provider: ROBERT L. DUFFY MD 06/15/2013

Document generated by: Robert L. Duffy 06/15/2013

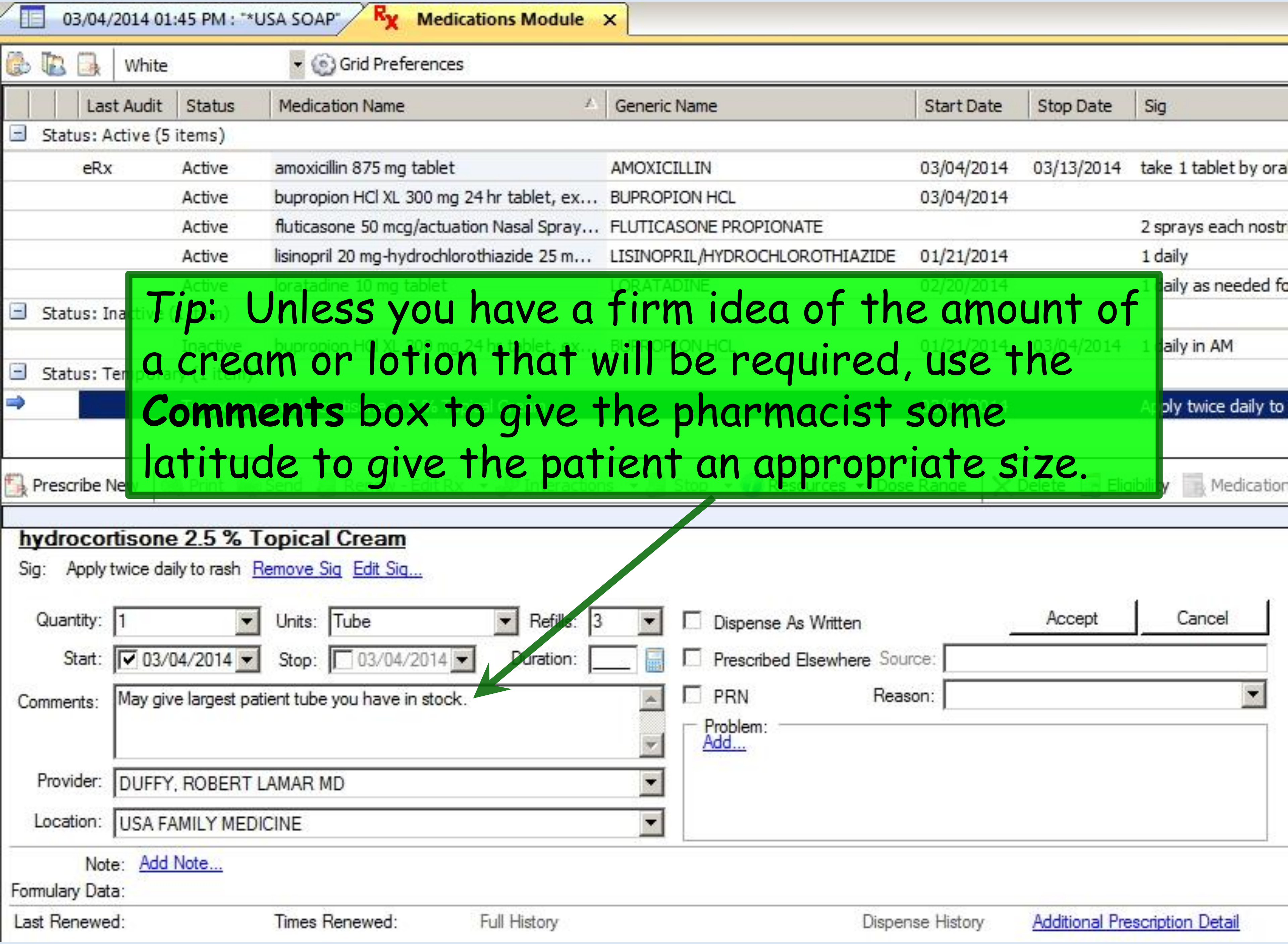
How do I specify how much liquid, cream, lotion, etc. I'm giving someone?

How do I specify the units?



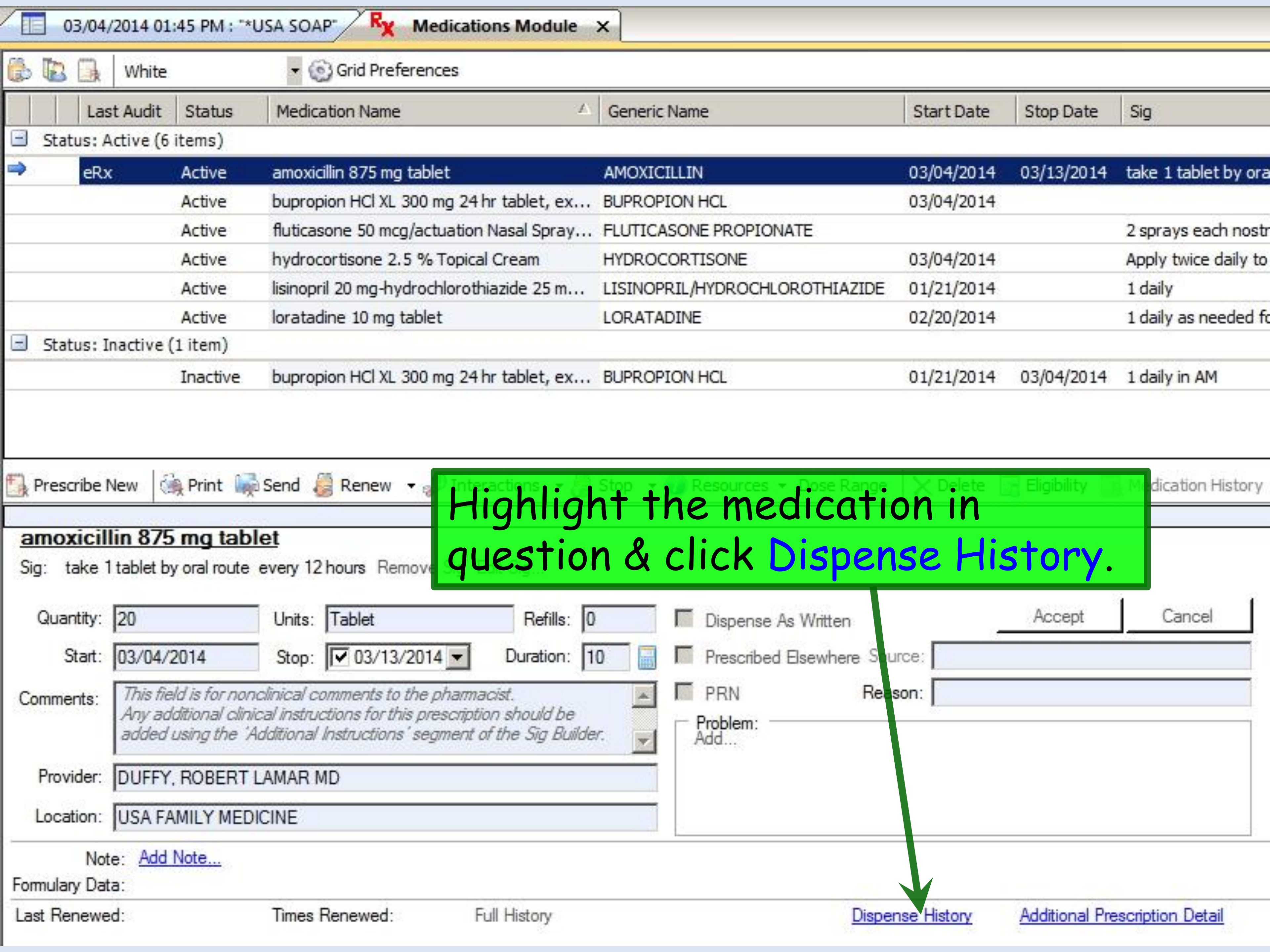
Use the Units dropdown arrow to specify the units of something you're prescribing.
You can scroll through a wide assortment of options—bottles, tubes, fluid ounces, grams, etc.

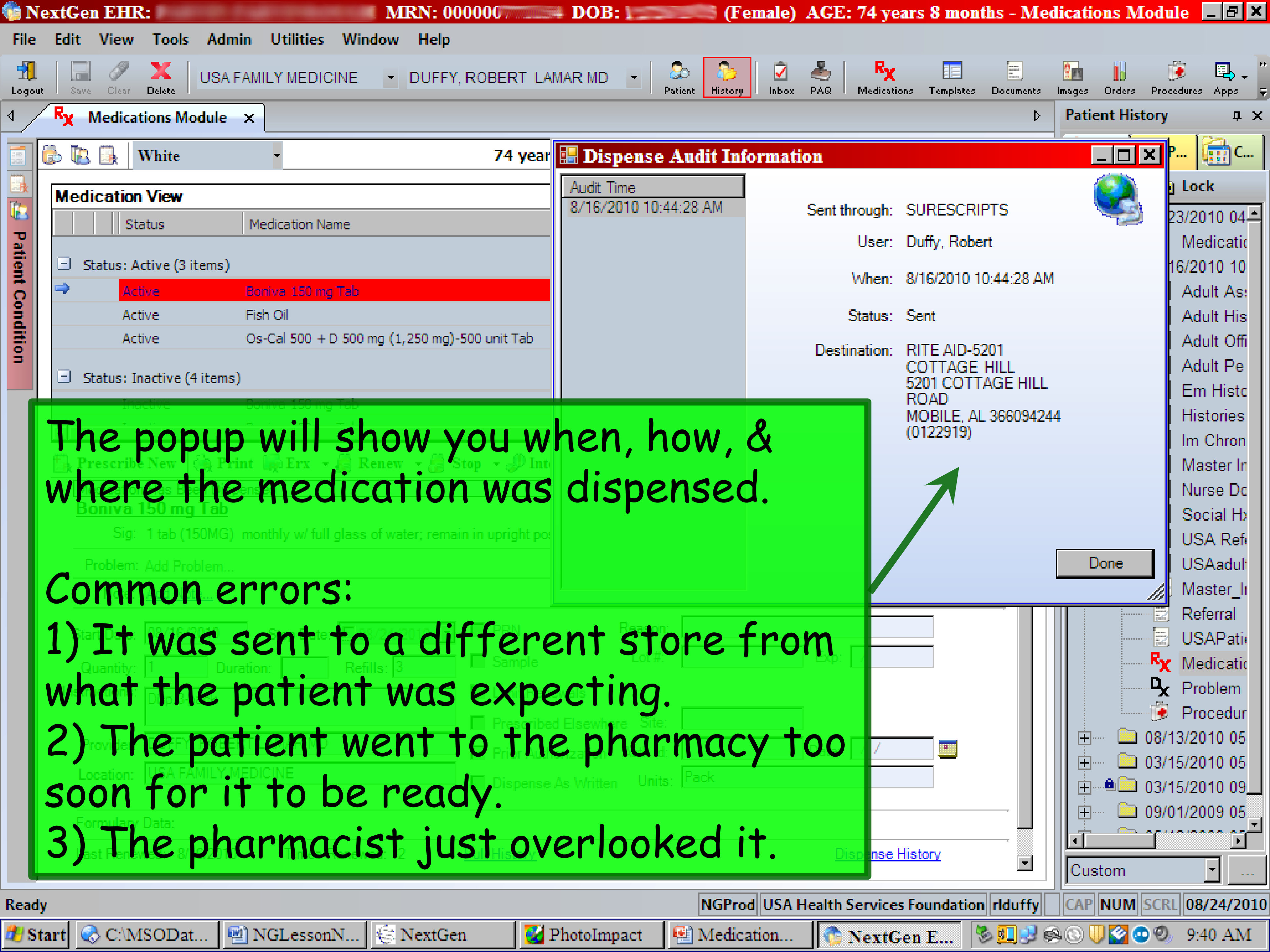
Tip: Unless you have a firm idea of the amount of a cream or lotion that will be required, use the **Comments** box to give the pharmacist some latitude to give the patient an appropriate size.

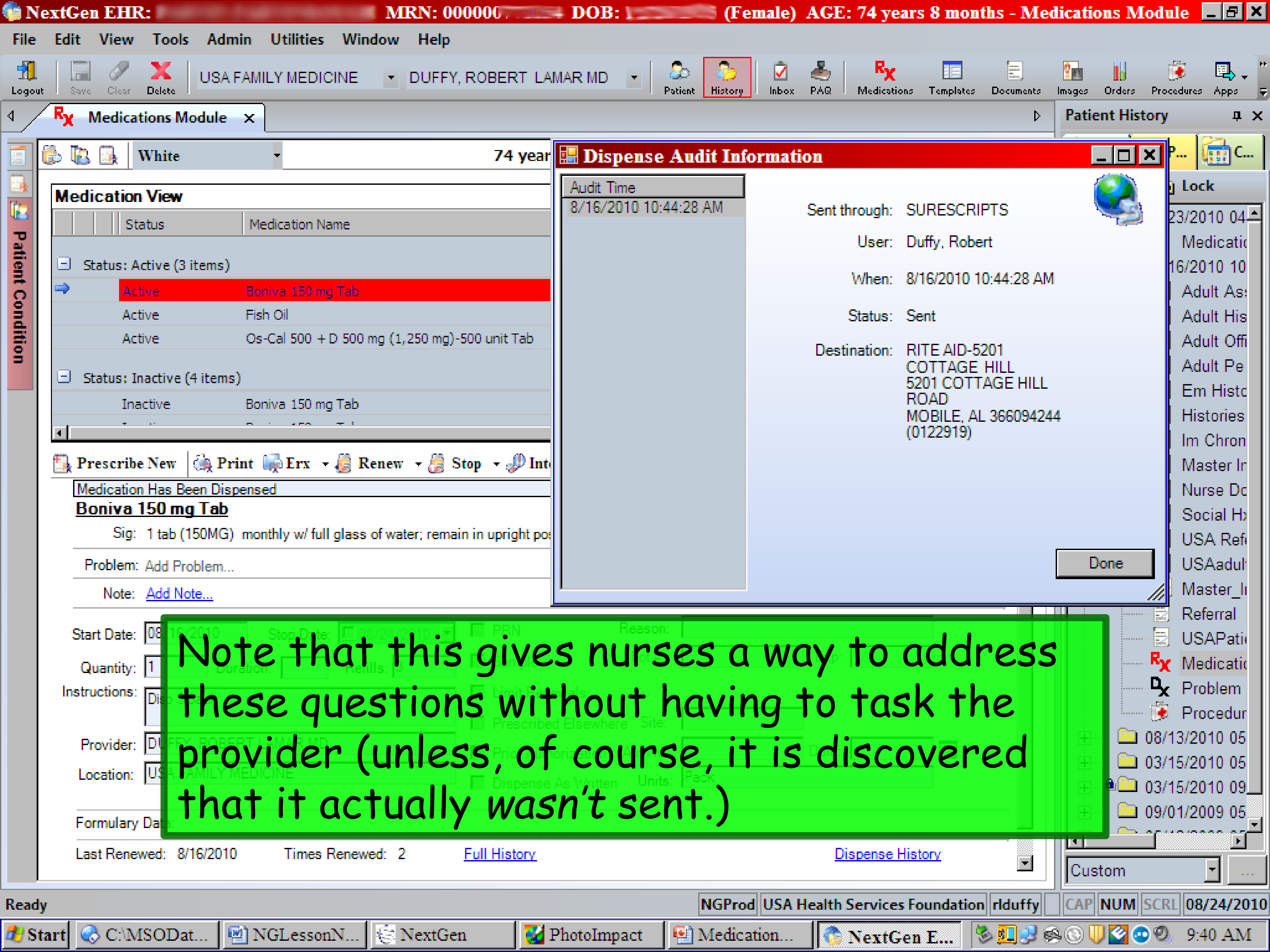


The patient or pharmacist just called & said I haven't sent the prescription, but I'm sure I did.

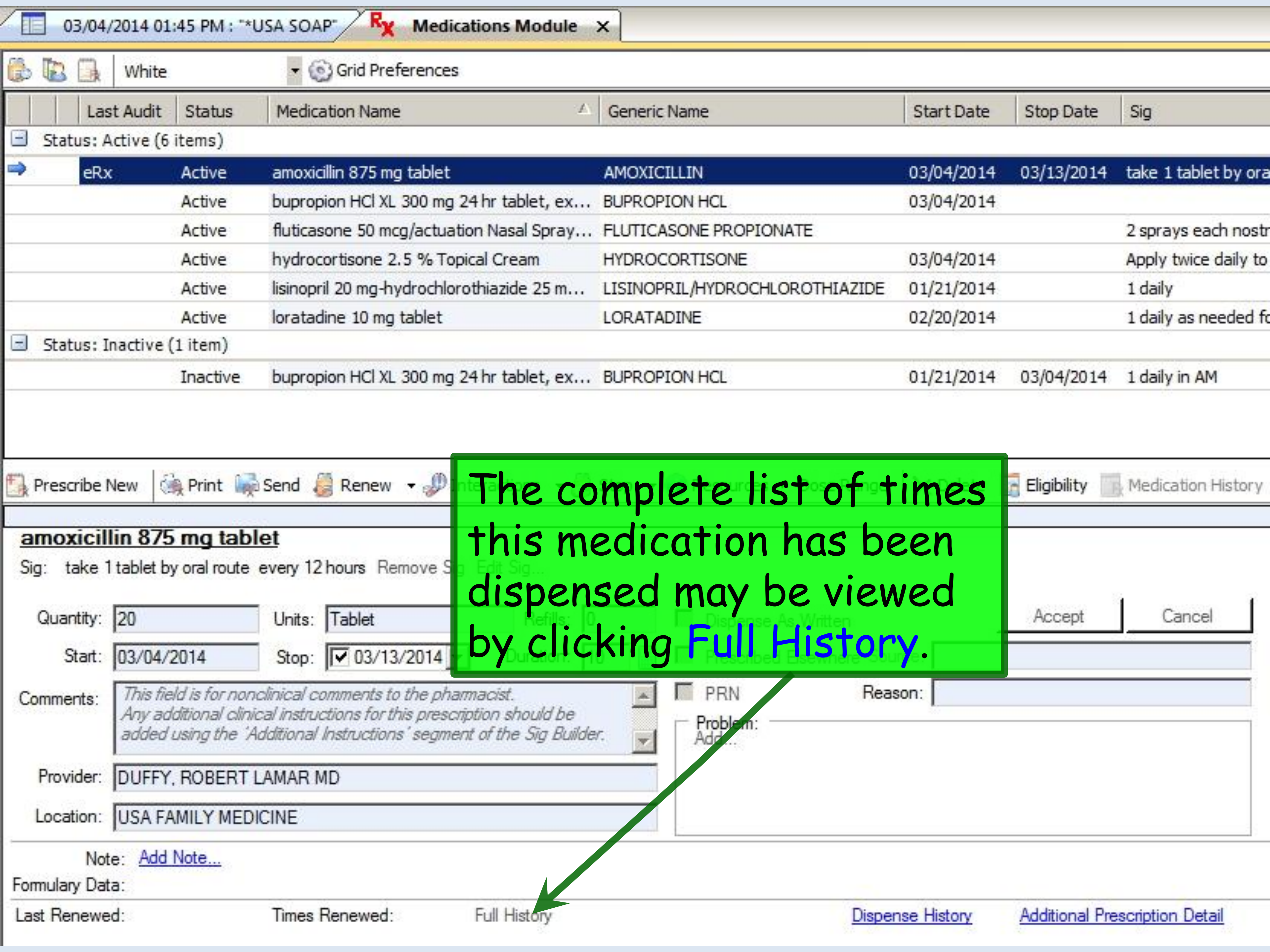
How can I confirm I dispensed the medication (either by ERx, print, or fax)?


03/04/2014 01:45 PM : "*USA SOAP"
Medications Module
White
Grid Preferences
Last Audit
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Sig
Status: Active (6 items)
eRx Active amoxicillin 875 mg tablet AMOXICILLIN 03/04/2014 03/13/2014 take 1 tablet by ora
Active bupropion HCl XL 300 mg 24 hr tablet, ex... BUPROPION HCL 03/04/2014
Active fluticasone 50 mcg/actuation Nasal Spray... FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 2 sprays each nostr
Active hydrocortisone 2.5 % Topical Cream HYDROCORTISONE 03/04/2014 Apply twice daily to
Active lisinopril 20 mg-hydrochlorothiazide 25 m... LISINOPRIL/HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE 01/21/2014 1 daily
Active loratadine 10 mg tablet LORATADINE 02/20/2014 1 daily as needed fo
Status: Inactive (1 item)
Inactive bupropion HCl XL 300 mg 24 hr tablet, ex... BUPROPION HCL 01/21/2014 03/04/2014 1 daily in AM
Prescribe New
Print
Send
Renew
Highlight the medication in question & click Dispense History.
amoxicillin 875 mg tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by oral route every 12 hours
Quantity: 20
Units: Tablet
Refills: 0
Dispense As Written
Accept
Cancel
Start: 03/04/2014
Stop: 03/13/2014
Duration: 10
Prescribed Elsewhere
Comments: This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Add...
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE
Note: Add Note...
Formulary Data:
Last Renewed:
Times Renewed:
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail


NextGen EHR: [redacted] MRN: 000000[redacted] DOB: [redacted] (Female) AGE: 74 years 8 months - Medications Module
File Edit View Tools Admin Utilities Window Help
USA FAMILY MEDICINE
DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Medications Module
Patient History
Medication View
Status
Medication Name
Status: Active (3 items)
Active Boniva 150 mg Tab
Active Fish Oil
Active Os-Cal 500 + D 500 mg (1,250 mg)-500 unit Tab
Status: Inactive (4 items)
Dispense Audit Information
Audit Time
8/16/2010 10:44:28 AM
Sent through: SURESCRIPTS
User: Duffy, Robert
When: 8/16/2010 10:44:28 AM
Status: Sent
Destination: RITE AID-5201 COTTAGE HILL 5201 COTTAGE HILL ROAD MOBILE, AL 366094244 (0122919)
Done
The popup will show you when, how, & where the medication was dispensed.
Common errors:
1) It was sent to a different store from what the patient was expecting.
2) The patient went to the pharmacy too soon for it to be ready.
3) The pharmacist just overlooked it.
Dispense History
Ready
NGProd USA Health Services Foundation rlduffy CAP NUM SCRL 08/24/2010
Start
9:40 AM



Note that this gives nurses a way to address these questions without having to task the provider (unless, of course, it is discovered that it actually *wasn't* sent.)


03/04/2014 01:45 PM : "*USA SOAP"
Medications Module
White
Grid Preferences
Last Audit
Status
Medication Name
Generic Name
Start Date
Stop Date
Sig
Status: Active (6 items)
eRx Active amoxicillin 875 mg tablet AMOXICILLIN 03/04/2014 03/13/2014 take 1 tablet by ora
Active bupropion HCl XL 300 mg 24 hr tablet, ex... BUPROPION HCL 03/04/2014
Active fluticasone 50 mcg/actuation Nasal Spray... FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE 2 sprays each nostr
Active hydrocortisone 2.5 % Topical Cream HYDROCORTISONE 03/04/2014 Apply twice daily to
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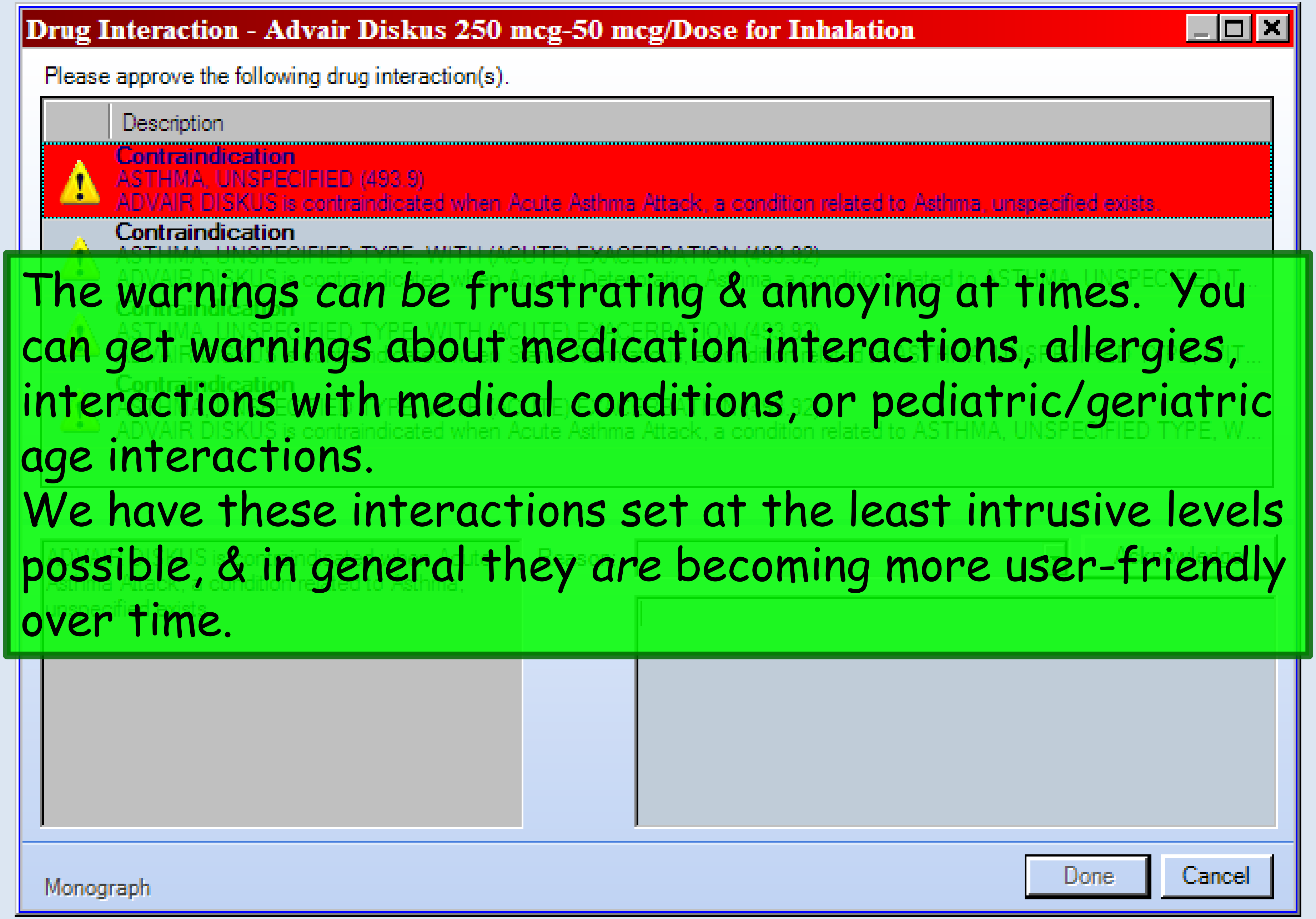
Active loratadine 10 mg tablet LORATADINE 02/20/2014 1 daily as needed fo
Status: Inactive (1 item)
Inactive bupropion HCl XL 300 mg 24 hr tablet, ex... BUPROPION HCL 01/21/2014 03/04/2014 1 daily in AM
Prescribe New
Print
Send
Renew
Eligibility
Medication History
amoxicillin 875 mg tablet
Sig: take 1 tablet by oral route every 12 hours
Quantity: 20
Units: Tablet
Accept
Cancel
Start: 03/04/2014
Stop: 03/13/2014
Comments: This field is for nonclinical comments to the pharmacist. Any additional clinical instructions for this prescription should be added using the 'Additional Instructions' segment of the Sig Builder.
PRN
Reason:
Problem:
Provider: DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD
Location: USA FAMILY MEDICINE
Note: Add Note...
Formulary Data:
Last Renewed:
Times Renewed:
Full History
Dispense History
Additional Prescription Detail
The complete list of times this medication has been dispensed may be viewed by clicking Full History.

What's up with all of these warnings?

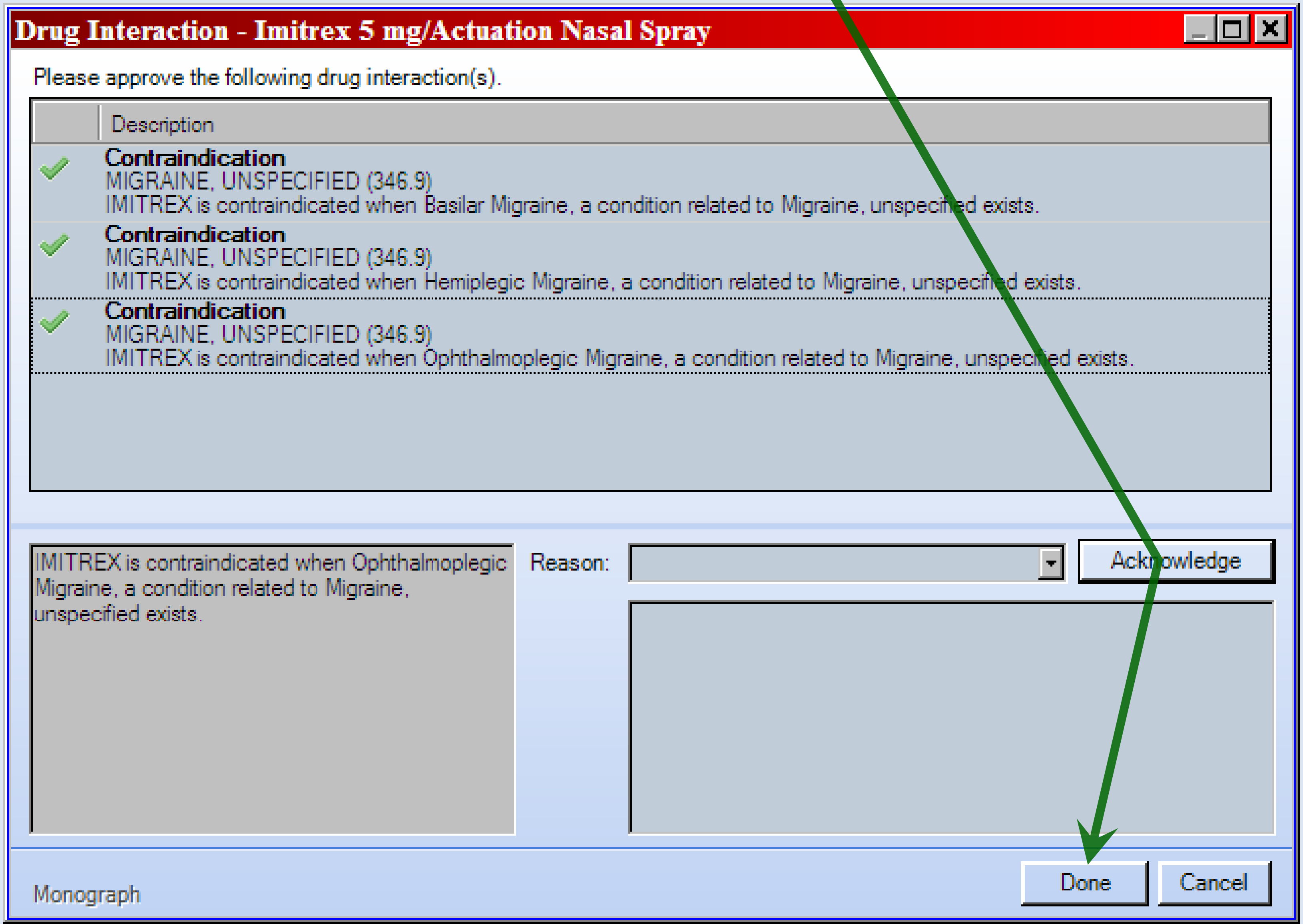
I can't prescribe water for thirst without seeing a contraindication or interaction.

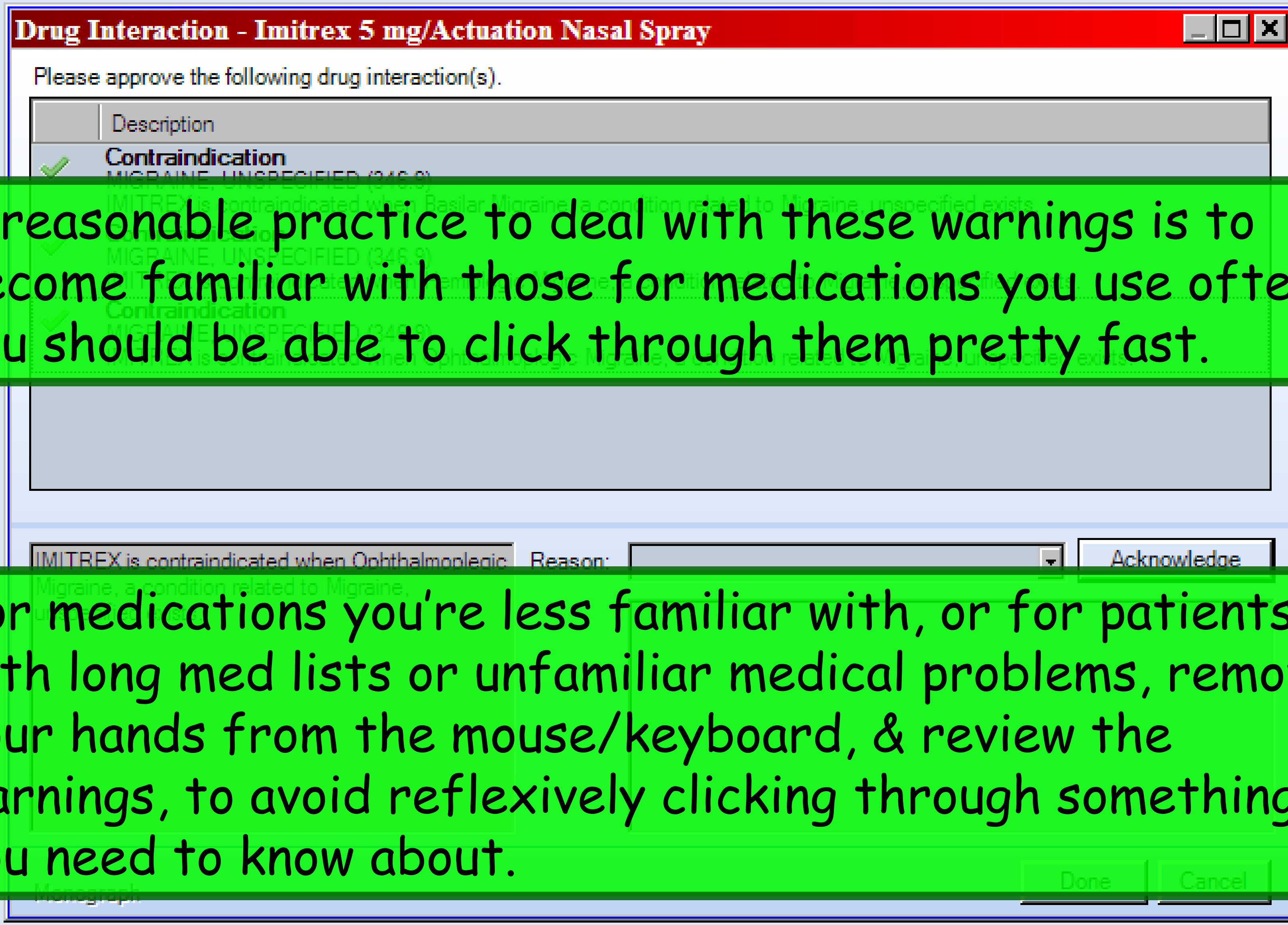


The warnings *can be* frustrating & annoying at times. You can get warnings about medication interactions, allergies, interactions with medical conditions, or pediatric/geriatric age interactions.

We have these interactions set at the least intrusive levels possible, & in general they *are* becoming more user-friendly over time.

To prescribe the med, click the Acknowledge button for each warning, then click Done.





A reasonable practice to deal with these warnings is to become familiar with those for medications you use often; you should be able to click through them pretty fast.

For medications you're less familiar with, or for patients with long med lists or unfamiliar medical problems, remove your hands from the mouse/keyboard, & review the warnings, to avoid reflexively clicking through something you need to know about.

This concludes the NextGen Medication Module demonstration.

Honk if you love peace & quiet.

R. Lamar Duffy, M.D.
Associate Professor
University of South Alabama
College of Medicine
Department of Family Medicine