Step 1 of 3

Write down the 'dose to be given' (the dose written on the prescription).

Use this formula:

$$\frac{\text{dose to be given}}{\text{stock strength}} = \text{number of tablets}$$

$$\frac{1 \, \text{g}}{\text{stock strength}} = \text{number of tablets}$$

Step 2 of 3

Write down the 'stock strength' of the tablets you have on hand (i.e., how much of the drug is in each tablet).

Remember the formula:

$$\frac{\text{dose to be given}}{\text{stock strength}} = \text{number of tablets}$$

The strength of a tablet is written on the bottle.

It may also be referred to as 'strength available' or 'stock dose'.

In this case each tablet contains 500 mg of the drug.

$$\frac{1 \, \text{g}}{500 \, \text{mg}} = \text{number of tablets}$$
Before you do the calculation, the units of weight (grams & milligrams) need to be expressed in the same units (eg both must be grams or milligrams).

The calculation will be easier if you always convert the larger unit (eg grams) so that it is the same as the smaller unit (eg milligrams).

The formula so far:
\[
\frac{1\, \text{g}}{500\, \text{mg}} = \text{number of tablets}
\]

Convert grams to milligrams (1 g = 1000 mg)
\[
\frac{1000}{500} = 2\, \text{tablets}
\]

*If you are not sure how to do conversions, go to the 'Metric conversion' page.*

*Hints: Generally you are unlikely to give a patient more than 3 or 4 tablets of the one type. Always recheck your calculation.*