

## ORAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION: LIQUIDS MEDICINE CUP

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### *Administering oral liquid medication using a medicine cup to children:*

Do not substitute household items, such as household baking spoons, teaspoons, measuring cups, for dosing devices. The parent must supply a medicine cup with the correct measurement (teaspoons, tablespoons, milliliters, cc's or ounces) identified in the health care provider's instructions. Due to the potential for error, you should never convert a dose from one measurement to another.

**Complete PREPARATION PHASE**

**Complete ADMINISTRATION PHASE**

Prepare:

1. Identify the desired measurement on the medicine cup. If you wish to mark the correct dose on the cup with a pen, be sure to mark next to the measurement line not over it.
2. If indicated, shake the medication.
3. (Optional\*) Put on gloves to avoid contact with the liquid.
4. Pour the liquid medication into the cup to the desired level. With the medication cup on a flat surface, check the medication level by bringing your eye to the same level as the cup. Always measure the medication using the lowest point of the curvature, not the edges.
5. If you poured too much medication into the medicine cup, pour the excess into a disposable cup. The medicine in this cup can be added back into the medicine cup to reach the correct dose if needed. Any excess medication left in the disposable cup may be returned to the bottle.
6. With the cup on a flat surface, check the medication level again to verify the correct dose.



Compare the child's medication consent form against the medication label for the **Five Rights** before administering the medication to the child.

medication  time  dose  route  child's name

Administer:

1. Hand the medicine cup to the child and assist or watch him/her drink the medicine.
2. Put a small amount of water in the medicine cup.
3. Swish the water around to "catch" any left over medicine and have the child drink this liquid as well.

**Second  
Check**



## Handout 5.4

4. Give the child a drink of water.
5. If you wore gloves – remove gloves and discard using the appropriate technique.



### □ **Complete DOCUMENTATION PHASE**

Medication related equipment must be kept clean and in working order. This will prevent the spread of germs, prevent giving a wrong dose due to residual medication “build-up” and avoid giving an incorrect dose due to an equipment malfunction. Medication related equipment should be cleaned after the administration of the medication has been documented and the medication has been returned to the safe storage area.

#### **To clean a medicine cup:**

1. Wash the cup with warm running water and a mild dishwashing soap removing all medication residue.
2. Rinse under running water.
3. Allow to air dry or wipe with a lint free towel.

\* Glove use is recommended to protect both you and the child.

You should use gloves when administering medication if:

- the skin on your hands is cut, scabbed or broken
- it would be harmful for the medication to come in contact with your skin
- you feel more comfortable wearing gloves to administer the medication