



Handout 5.6

ORAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION: LIQUIDS

ORAL MEDICATION SYRINGE

Administering oral liquid medication to children using an oral syringe:

Do not substitute household items, such as household baking spoons, teaspoons, measuring cups, for dosing devices. The parent must supply an oral medication syringe 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.

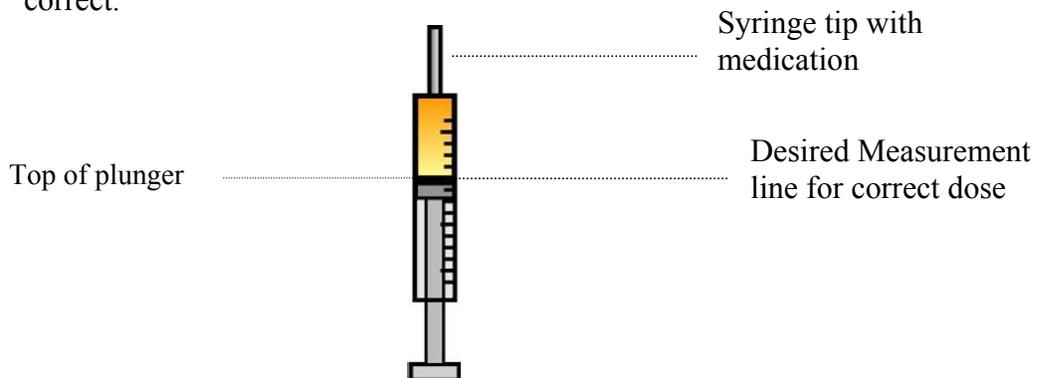
Complete PREPARATION PHASE

Complete ADMINISTRATION PHASE

If the parent supplied an oral medication syringe without an adapter for the medication bottle prepare the oral medication syringe following these steps:

Prepare:

1. If there is a cap on the syringe take it off and throw it away.
2. Identify the desired measurement on the syringe. If you wish to mark the correct dose on the oral syringe with a pen, be sure to mark next to the measurement line not over it.
3. If indicated, shake the medication.
4. (Optional*) Put on gloves to avoid contact with liquid.
5. Pour a small amount of medication into a disposable cup.
6. Place the tip of the syringe into the liquid in the disposable cup.
7. Pull the plunger to draw up the desired amount of medication.
8. Bring the top of the plunger to the line which marks the correct dose. The tip of the syringe must be filled with medicine in order for the dose to be correct.



9. Remove all air bubbles. To do this:
 - Turn the syringe so the tip is pointing toward the ceiling
 - Tap the syringe to move the air bubbles to the top of the syringe
 - Slowly push the plunger until the air bubbles are gone



Handout 5.6

10. Recheck the syringe at eye level to make sure the dose is correct. Draw up additional medication from the disposable cup if needed. Any excess medication in the disposable cup may be returned to the bottle.
11. Wipe off any medication on the outside of the syringe.

Second
Check

- 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. Place the oral syringe into the side of the infant's mouth.
2. Slowly squirt small amounts of medication between the rear gum and cheek. Do not squirt more than the baby can swallow at one time. Never squirt medicine directly down the baby's throat as this can cause choking.
3. If you wore gloves - remove gloves and discard using the appropriate technique.



- Complete DOCUMENTATION PHASE**

NOTE: If the parent supplied an adapter to be attached to the medication bottle to remove the liquid using the oral medication syringe, you should follow up with the child's parent to discuss how you will maintain the integrity of the medication using this technique.

* 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

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 an oral medication syringe:

1. Separate the plunger from the outside barrel of the syringe.
2. Wash both parts with warm running water and a mild dishwashing soap removing all medication residue.
3. Rinse both parts under running water.
4. Allow to air dry or wipe with a lint free towel then reassemble.

NEVER PUT AN ORAL SYRINGE IN THE DISHWASHER.