



Handout 5.7

## ORAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION: LIQUIDS WITH A DROPPER

### *Administering oral liquid medication with a dropper to children:*

Do not substitute household items, such as household baking spoons, teaspoons, measuring cups, for dosing devices. Only use a dropper if the parent supplied one that came with the medication.

**Complete PREPARATION PHASE**

**Complete ADMINISTRATION PHASE**

Prepare:



1. Compare the medication box to the dropper bottle.
2. If indicated, shake the medication.
3. (Optional\*) Put on gloves.
4. Identify the correct measurement on the dropper.
5. As you squeeze the rubber end of the dropper, place the dropper tip into the medication.
6. Slowly release the rubber end to withdraw the medication.
7. Check the dropper at eye level.
8. Any excess medicine in the dropper can be squeezed back into the medicine bottle.
9. Recheck the dosage at eye level to verify you have the correct dose.

**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 dropper into the side of the child's mouth.
2. Slowly squeeze the dropper to release the medication into the side of mouth. Do not squirt more than can be swallowed at one time. Never aim the dropper directly down the infant's throat as this can cause choking.
3. Wipe the dropper dry with a clean lint free tissue or paper towel and return to the medication bottle.
4. If you wore gloves - remove gloves and discard using the appropriate technique.



**Complete DOCUMENTATION PHASE**

\* 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