



Handout 5.18

EAR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION: DROPS

Administering ear medication to children:

Complete PREPARATION PHASE

Complete ADMINISTRATION PHASE

Prepare:

1. If the outer part of the child's ear has some crusting or ear wax you should gently remove this with a single use towel. Do not put anything into the child's ear canal.
2. Remove the drops from the box and compare it to the medication container.
3. If necessary, warm the medicine by rolling the bottle between your palms.
4. If indicated, shake the medication.
5. (Optional*) Put on gloves to avoid contact with the liquid.
6. Have the child sit down, tilting her ear up or have the child lie down on her side so the ear is pointed up.
7. Draw the medication into the dropper.



*Second
Check*

- Compare the 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. Straighten the ear canal.
 - For children under 3: Hold ear lobe and gently pull down and back.



- For children 3 and over: Hold upper part of ear and gently pull up and back.





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2. Place the correct number of drops into the ear canal so they will roll into the ear along the side of the ear canal. Be careful to not drop directly into the ear. This can be painful and cause the child to experience nausea or dizziness.
3. Wipe off any excess drops on the outside of the ear. If the drop completely misses her ear, administer the drop again. *If any portion of the drop gets into the ear, do not administer the dose again.*
4. Have the child stay on her side for a few minutes if possible. You should hold the infant so that the ear drops will not flow out of the child's ear.
Note: Only use a cotton ball if it is clearly specified in the health care provider's instructions.
5. Repeat procedure for the second ear if indicated.
6. Replace the dropper.
7. If gloves were worn – 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