

Module 3

Learning material 3:

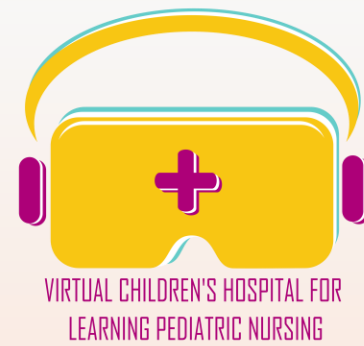
General Principles of Safe Medication Administration to Children For Parents at Home



Administration of medicines to infants and children can be challenging but the following principles should be followed to safely and correctly administer the prescribed treatment:



- ✓ **Follow prescriptions carefully:** Read the instructions on the medicine label.
 - Does the label say instructions before giving the medication, like shake the bottle or do not give food one hour before and after. Do not alter doses without consulting the physician.
 - Administer the medication as prescribed following instructions on the medicine label.
 - Always check the medication label: The right **Patient** should use the right **Medication** ,at the right **Time** by the right **Route**, at the right **Dose**.



- ✓ **Apply hand hygiene** before and after every medication administration (wash hands or use a hand rub).
- ✓ **Store medications safely** : Check for any special storage instructions(Cool ,Dry, refrigerator etc).
 - Always store medications according to the instructions specified on the drug labels or package inserts.
 - Store medication out of the reach of children. Keep them in a secure, out-of-reach location.
- ✓ **Dispose of medication properly** :Discard unused or expired medication according to local guidelines.



✓ **Read labels and instructions :**

Check the ***expiry or use-by date***. Once you have opened the medication it may need to be discarded after a certain time(*note the date you have opened the medicine, so you know the day you need to discard it*).

Check if the strength of the medication and the dose is written on the label. If you are ***unsure about the dose***, you should not give it to your child.

Talk to a medical professional or a pharmacist before administering the medication.



- ✓ **Measure accurately** :Use the correct metric measure. Make sure you have the correct size and type of syringe to measure the dose. Use measuring device provided with the medication. Use them as shown by your nurse/pharmacist. Do not use everyday utensils, such as teaspoons or tablespoons.

Most syringes can be re-used. This will be stated on the packaging. If the syringe can be re-used, wash your syringe in warm soapy water after each use so it is ready for the next time you need it. Leave to dry. Bungs can stay in the bottle until it is finished, or the course is complete.



- ✓ **Maintain schedule** :administer the medication same time every day to maintain consistent levels in the bloodstream.
 - It is recommended to use schedule chart or phone reminder this will also help to avoid dosing errors.
- ✓ **Avoid sharing** medication with others.
- ✓ **Complete the treatment course** as prescribed.
- ✓ **Report** - Let your doctor, nurse or pharmacist know if your child experiences a side-effect to a medicine.

References & Web links

- Smith L, Leggett C, Borg C. Administration of medicines to children: a practical guide. *Aust Prescr.* 2022 Dec;45(6):188-192. doi: 10.18773/austprescr.2022.067. Epub 2022 Nov 30. PMID: 36479324; PMCID: PMC9722353.
- *The Pharmaceutical Journal*, Administering medicines safely to children at home learning from families, PJ, March 2021, Vol 306, No 7947;306(7947)::DOI:10.1211/PJ.2021.1.67163
- <https://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/advice-guides/giving-medicines-to-babies/>
- <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/medicines-for-children>
- <https://www.cambscommunityservices.nhs.uk/docs/default-source/Beds---School-Nursing/a-questions-and-answers-guide-to-the-administration-of-medicines-in-schools-and-colleges.pdf?sfvrsn=4>
- https://www.rch.org.au/kidsinfo/fact_sheets/Medicines_for_children_about/

