

MODULE 3

How to Administer Medication






- Introduction: top common errors
- 5 Rights
- Identifying “as needed” conditions
- Universal/standard precautions
- Preparing to administer medication
- Medication administration procedure
- Communicating with the child




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Introduction: Common Errors in Medication Administration

7,000 children per year require emergency department visits for medication problems

- Common errors
 - Took medication twice
 - Wrong medication
 - Incorrect dose
 - Missed dose
- Common causes
 - Not understanding medication label
 - Not understanding how to give medication
 - Poor communication between parents/guardians and health care professional












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Most Common Medication Errors

- Errors are most commonly made with analgesics, which is the class of medication which includes Tylenol® (acetaminophen) and Motrin® (ibuprofen)
- Reasons for errors include:
 - These medications are given frequently
 - There are many different concentrations (infant drops, children’s liquids, etc)
 - They are often mixed with other medications in cough and cold preparations
 - Dosing charts are unique to the type and form of the medication

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The "5 Rights"

- Right child
- Right medication
- Right dose
- Right time
- Right route








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Right Child

- Check the name on the medication label and the child's name
- If any question arises, check a second identifier such as date of birth








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Right Medication

- Read the label to make sure you have the correct medication
- Check to see:
 - Medication is in the original labeled container
 - Expiration date is not exceeded
- Especially important for children who are taking more than 1 medication








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Right Dose

- Check dose on label and authorization form
- Use proper measuring device
- Check measuring device carefully

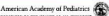




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Right Time

- Check the permission form to match the time with the label
- Check that medication is being given within 30 minutes before or after prescribed time
- Look at the clock and note the time
- The right time includes both time and date
- In an emergency, "now" is the right time to give medication

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Right Route

- Check the label and Authorization to Give Medicine form
- How is the medication to be given?





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“As Needed” Conditions

- Some medication, such as emergency medication, only need to be given “as needed”
- Health care professionals and other prescribers should not write “as needed” or “prn” without more specific instructions
 - Example of acceptable, specific instructions: albuterol – 2 puffs as needed for wheezing, increased cough, or breathing difficulty
- OTC medication for pain and fever should be kept to a minimum and should be as specific as possible
- The order should state the maximum number of times the dose can be repeated before seeking further medical care

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Standard Precautions in Child Care Settings

Standard Precautions

- The term for the infection control measures that all health and child care providers should follow in order to protect themselves from infectious diseases and to prevent the spread of infectious diseases to those in their care
- Sometimes called universal precautions

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Standard Precautions in Child Care Settings

What Do They Consist Of?

- Handwashing
 - Handwashing with soap and water should be done before medication administration
 - An individual towel should be available for each handwashing
 - Hand sanitizers (alcohol based rubs) should be limited to times when soap and water are not available
 - Hand sanitizers should be kept out of reach of children and their use should be supervised
- Disposable gloves
- Proper disposal of materials
- Environmental sanitation

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**Group Activity:
 Prepare to Administer Medication to Nick**

- List the steps to prepare to give medication to Nick



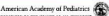


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**Group Activity: Prepare to Administer
 Medication to Nick, continued**

Steps

- Wash hands
- Prepare work area
- Take out the medication
- Check the label and the items on the forms to see that they match
- Get proper measuring device
- Check the time

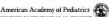




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**Medication Administration Procedure:
 Prepare the Medication**

- Find appropriate measuring device
- Measure the amount on the label
- Change the form of the medication **ONLY** if label states for you to do so:
 - Crushed or powdered medication
 - Sprinkles
 - Mix with food

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Medication and Food

- It is usually best not to mix medication with food, but it may be necessary
- Ask the prescriber or pharmacist before mixing medication with food or liquid
- If medication is mixed with food or liquid, ALL of it must be taken
- Give the child something to drink immediately afterward to help with the taste

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Medication Administration Procedure: Prepare the Child

- Communicate with the child
- Explain the procedure to the child
 - *Never call medication "candy"*
- Wash the child's hands, if appropriate
- Position the child

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Prepare the Child: Infants

- Support the infant's head
- Hold the baby semi-upright
 - An infant seat may be used
- Keep the infant's arms and hands away from her face
- Gently press the chin to open the mouth
- Rock the baby before and after
- Syringe or dropper:
 - Position on one side of the mouth along the gum
 - Squirt slowly to allow time to swallow
- Special dosing nipples work best when the baby is hungry
- Give oral medication before feeding unless instructed otherwise

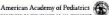

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Prepare the Child: Toddlers

- Ask parents what techniques they use
- Give toddlers some control, like sitting or standing, but do not give veto power over taking the medication
- Be honest about bad taste and allow the child to drink afterwards
- Use age-appropriate language to explain what you are doing
- Maintain an attitude that you expect cooperation
- Thank the child for their cooperation and praise them

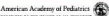




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Prepare the Child: Older Children

- Explain why we take medication and why they help us to get better
- Use the opportunity to teach about time, body parts, health, and illness
- Involving the child in the process helps to prepare him to take his own medication as he gets older
- Books that talk about medication are helpful to read with the child





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Medication Administration Procedure

- Check 5 rights: child, medication, dose, time, and route
 - Note any special instructions
- Take the medication from the container
 - Prepare the medication
- Check the label again
- Give the medication
 - *Never give more or less, accuracy is very important*

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Medication Administration Procedure: Finishing Up

- Praise the child
- Check the label again
- Return the medication to storage immediately
 - Never leave medication unattended
- Record the medication, date, time, dose, route, and your signature on the Medication Log
- Clean the measuring device
- Wash your hands
- Observe the child for side effects

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After Giving Medication

- Allow the child the opportunity to express his or her feelings
- Acknowledge that some medication is difficult to take
- Encourage the child that next time will be easier
- Offer to spend time with the child

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Oral Medication Video: How to Give Oral Medication

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Measuring Oral Medication

- Oral Measuring Devices
 - Dropper
 - Syringes: ½ tsp or less is most accurately measured with syringe or similar device
 - Dosing spoon
 - Medication cup
- *No kitchen teaspoons!*




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Topical Medication Video: How to Give Topical Medication




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Topical Medication Video: How to Give Eye Drops




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Topical Medication Video: How to Give Ear Drops



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Topical Medication

- Skin creams, ointments, patches
- Eye drops, ointments
- Ear drops

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Inhaled Medication

- Nasal sprays and drops
- Metered dose inhalers and nebulizers

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