



General Instructions for Giving Your Baby's Oral Medicine

MEDICINES

Your baby has some special needs and is going home on medicine. It is important that you know how to give the dose ordered by the doctor. The nurse will tell you what the medicine does for your baby, show you how to give the medicine and help you develop a plan so you can remember when the medicine should be given.

It is important to read all of the information on the labels of the medicine. Your doctor and your pharmacist are available once you are at home with your baby. They can give you information and answer any questions you may have.

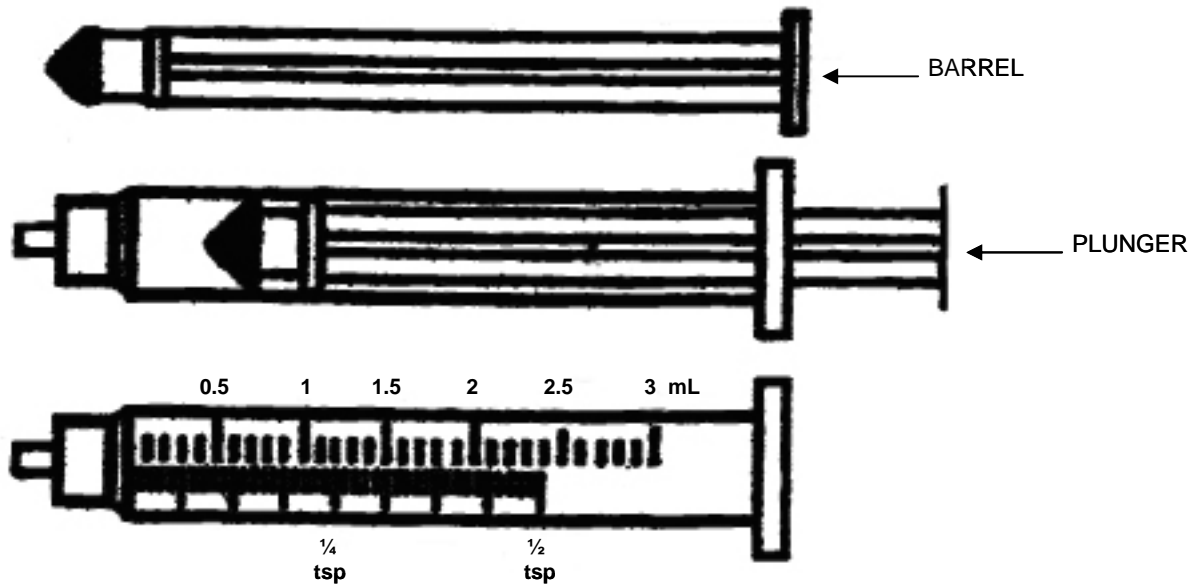
It is important to discuss with your baby's doctor what to do about missed doses during your first visit after discharge.

GENERAL MEDICATION SAFETY

1. **Keep all medicine and syringes away from children.** It could be very dangerous if they drink any. If this occurs, call your doctor. You may need to take the bottle, any remaining medicine and the child to the nearest hospital emergency room.
2. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you are parents of more than one baby, double check that you are giving the correct baby the correct medicine at the correct time and that it is the correct amount of medicine.
3. The American Academy of Pediatrics no longer recommends that Syrup of Ipecac be kept in the home. If you have Syrup of Ipecac in your home, it should be safely discarded.
4. If you suspect that a child has ingested unprescribed medicine or too much medicine, call the local poison control center at (800) 222-1222. This number should be posted by all phones in the homes.
5. If you suspect an ingestion and the infant/child stops breathing, cannot be awakened (is unconscious) or has jerky movements that may be a seizure, call 9-1-1 right away.

USING A SYRINGE

1. The syringe has a barrel and a plunger. The plunger moves up and down in the barrel.
2. All syringes have two types of measurements. Only use the side that reads mL (milliliter). Do not use the tsp (teaspoon) side.



DRAWING UP THE MEDICINE

1. Pull the plunger up and down a few times in the syringe to make it move easier.
2. Push the plunger all the way down in the syringe.
3. Place the syringe in the bottle of medicine with the tip of the syringe covered by the medicine.
4. Pull the plunger up and down two complete times. This will get rid of the air bubble.
5. On the second time, pull the medicine just past the amount needed.
6. Remove the syringe from the bottle and turn the syringe to point toward the ceiling.
7. Look for air bubbles. If there are any present, empty all medication back into the medication bottle and repeat steps #4, #5 and #6.
8. Slowly push the plunger up until the top edge of the black stopper is even with the proper line on the syringe for the amount of medicine to be given.

GIVING THE MEDICINE

1. Medicines for infants may be placed in about 15mL (half an ounce) of formula and then fed to the infant.
2. Squirting the medicine directly into the baby's mouth from the syringe will often take the baby's breath away or make him or her choke.

CLEANING AND STORAGE OF SYRINGES

1. Wash syringe parts separately in hot soapy water. Rinse in hot water and dry.
2. Store dry syringes in clean bag or baggies.

HOW TO USE THE MEDICINE

1. The doctor will tell you how much of the medicine to give and how often. Do not give more medicine or give it more often than the doctor tells you to.
2. In general, if you forget to give a dose of medicine, give it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for the next dose, wait until then to give the medicine and skip the missed dose.
3. Do not try to make up for a missed dose by doubling or increasing the next dose.
4. If your baby vomits immediately after giving the medicine and before the feeding is given, repeat the entire dose one time.
5. Do not stop giving the medicine unless the doctor tells you to.
6. Do not give your baby any over-the-counter medicine unless the doctor says they are okay.
7. Always tell the doctor all the medicine your baby is on when any other medicine needs to be prescribed.
8. Store all medicine as instructed on label.
9. Do not wait until the bottle is empty before getting the prescription refilled.

WHEN TRAVELING

1. Take the necessary amount of medicine with you when you are going on a trip.
2. Carry the medicine with you instead of packing it in your luggage. Your luggage may get lost!
3. Keep the medicine in its original container as labeled by the pharmacy.