

Nurses International

Clinical Skills

Name of the Procedure/Rubric/Rationale: Preparing Medications from Ampules and Vials

Step	Procedure	Yes	No	Remarks
1.	Perform hand hygiene and make the working area clean			
2.	<u>Gather all the supplies:</u> ☐ Medicine ampule ☐ Syringe ☐ Gauze ☐ Alcohol pads ☐ Sharp container			
3.	<u>Breaking open an ampule:</u> ☐ Tap the ampule to move the fluid downwards (fluid gets up the neck) ☐ Place a gauze pad against the neck of the ampule ☐ Snap the neck away from the hands			
4.	Use a syringe to draw the solution.			
4.	Label the syringe with the name of the medication, dose, date and time of preparation and your initials			
<u>Preparing medications from a vial</u>				
Step	Procedure	Yes	No	Remarks
5.	Perform hand hygiene and make the working area clean			
6.	<u>Gather your supplies:</u> ☐ Medicine vial ☐ Syringe ☐ Alcohol pad ☐ Sharps container.			
7.	Ensure the correct medication, check the expiry date			
8.	Take the cap off of the vial and wipe it with an alcohol swab			
9.	Open the syringe and fill the syringe with the air with the cap on. Note: The level of air must be equal to the calculated dose of the medication. (too little air makes it harder to draw the medicine out whereas too much air will force out the medicine from the syringe)			

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10.	Insert the needle into the vial and put the air into the vial.			
11.	Turn the vial upside down in the air and pull the plunger to draw the medicine out of the vial.			
12.	Tap the syringe with the fingers to move the trapped air bubbles (if present) on the top.			
13.	Then slowly and gently push the plunger up to push the air bubbles back into the vial.			
14.	Draw the same amount of the medicine (air bubbles took) to meet the calculated dose.			
Reconstituting Medicine from Vial				
Step	Procedure	Yes	No	Remarks
15.	Perform hand hygiene			
16.	<u>Gather supplies:</u> ☐ Correct medicine ☐ Syringe ☐ Alcohol swabs ☐ Sharp container			
17.	Ensure the correct medication, expiry date.			
18.	Ensure the correct solvent to dissolve the powder (some medication comes with solute and solvent. If the solvent is not available, sterile normal saline/ sterile water can be used.			
19.	Pull the amount of solvent/diluent from the ampule or vial and inject the solvent into the vial that contains solute.			
20.	Without withdrawing the needle, gently shake or roll the vial (it allows the solute to dissolve easily)			
21.	In case the solute does not dissolve, withdraw the needle and dissolve with a gentle shake and roll the vial between your hands to mix the content thoroughly.			
22.	Reinsert the needle to draw the desired dose of the dissolve medication.			
23.	Label vial DTI (Date, Time, and initials of the nurse who prepares/reconstitute the medication).			

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	Multidose vials are used for 28 days so the expiry date has to be mentioned on the label.			
24.	Store the medication into the specific area (fridge/room temperature) as per the direction in the label.			

Reference:

Doyle. G. R., McCutcheon. J. A. (2015). Clinical Procedures for Safer Patient Care: Parenteral Medications and Preparing Medications from Ampules and Vials (Ch. 7.2). Victoria, BC: BCcampus. Retrieved on 29th of December 2020 from <https://opentextbc.ca/clinicalskills/>