



## Medicine safety precautions for the safety of your child.

Your doctors and nurses are working hard to get your child back to good health. But you should also feel responsible and be a partner in giving the best health care delivery to your child. Despite the best efforts, medication errors happen. They happen in hospitals and even at home. Together we can minimize these errors by taking simple precautions.

## General Advice:

- Always keep a record of the various medicines that your child is taking and inform your doctor about them
- Inform your doctor about specific drug allergies that your child may have
- Giving medicines to a sick child can be extremely challenging for parents and caregivers. Dosages in children are calculated based on their age and weight. They usually require very small doses of medicines. To avoid medication errors, accurate dose measurement becomes very important
- There are special measuring devices that accurately and easily provide the prescribed dosage. Using common household utensils for measurement can lead to unacceptable inaccuracies. Improper measurement can also cause over or under-dosing leading to increased side effects or low benefits
- All medicines must be kept out of reach of children

## Liquid Medical Administration information:

Use an oral syringe, a medicine dropper, a medicine spoon, or a medicine cup (only for older children). If the child refuses to take the medicine because of bad taste, check with a pharmacist or your doctor to see if the medicine can be mixed with fruit juice, milk, or another liquid sweetener.

- Shake the medicine bottle well before use
- Open the infant's mouth by gently squeezing his/her cheeks or by using your finger to pull out a corner of the infant's mouth
- Squirt the medicine slowly into the side of the infant's mouth. Do not squirt it to the back of the throat as this can cause choking or gagging
- Gently stroke the infant under the chin to encourage swallowing while still holding the cheeks together
- Alternatively, pour medicine into small cup and dip your little finger in it. Let the infant suck it off your finger
- You may encourage young children to be in control by allowing them to guide the dropper or spoon into their mouth
- Rinse measuring device with warm water after each use
- Droppers or cups that come with specific medicines should preferably not be used to administer other medicines

## Do's and Don'ts

- Wash your child's hands immediately if medicine gets on them
- Distract your child with toys, songs or stories to keep your child busy while giving medicine
- Get help to hold the infant while giving medicine
- For older children, tell them about the illness and why it is necessary for them to take medicine
- Do use prescriptions as directed, even if your child is feeling better
- Do keep medicines out of the reach of children and pets
- Do not measure medicines for an infant with a medicine cup (use an oral syringe, a medicine dropper, or a medicine spoon)
- Do not use a teaspoon or tablespoon from your silverware to measure medicines for your child

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