



University of the Philippines Manila
THE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
COLLEGE OF NURSING

World Health Organization Collaborating Center for Nursing Leadership and Development
Commission on Higher Education Center of Excellence
 Sotejo Hall, Pedro Gil St., Ermita, Manila



N11 – NURSING FOUNDATION II

TITLE:	MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION PREPARING PARENTERAL MEDICATIONS
DEFINITION/ DESCRIPTION:	Ampules and vials are frequently used to package sterile parenteral medications of a drug. Vials are small glass bottles sealed with rubber cap and may vary – single dose or multiple doses. An ampule is a glass container usually designed to hold a single dose. Parenteral medications can also come in prefilled syringes
PURPOSES:	To observe the 10 rights of medication administration and prevent any medication error.
EQUIPMENT:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication administration record (MAR) or computer printout • Ampule of sterile medication or vial of sterile medication • Ampule file (if ampule is not scored) and small gauze square • Antiseptic swabs • Needle and syringe • Filter needle (check agency policy) • Water or normal saline if the drug is in powdered form
PLANNING:	Delegation: Preparation of these medications need knowledge and competency in the use of sterile technique; therefore, it should be done by a licensed health practitioner.

IMPLEMENTATION					
PREPARING MEDICATIONS FROM AMPULES					
	PROCEDURE	OBSERVED	DONE	NOT DONE	REMARKS
1.	Check MAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the label on the ampule carefully against the medication card to make sure that the correct medication is being prepared. Check expiration date of the drug. • Follow the three checks 				

	for administering medications. Read the label on the medication: (1) when it is taken from the medication cart; (2) before withdrawing the medication; and (3) after withdrawing the drug/medication				
2.	Assemble/ organize the equipment.				
3.	Wash hands and observe other appropriate infection control procedures (i.e .wearing of gloves).				
4.	Prepare the medication ampule for drug withdrawal.				
	Flick the upper stem of the ampule several times with a fingernail, or, holding the upper stem of the ampule, shake the ampule similar to shaking down a mercury thermometer.				
	Use an ampule opener or place a piece of sterile gauze or alcohol wipe between your thumb and the ampule's neck or around the ampule's neck, and break off the top by bending it toward you to ensure the ampule is broken away from yourself and away from others. OR				
	Place an antiseptic wipe packet over the top of the ampule before breaking off the top.				
	Dispose of the top of the ampule in the sharps container.				
5.	Withdrawing the medication from the ampule:				
	Place the ampule on a flat surface.				
	Using a filter needle to withdraw the medication, disconnect the regular needle, leaving its cap on, and attach the filter needle to the syringe.				
	Remove the cap from the filter				

	needle, and insert the needle into the center of the ampule. Do not touch the rim of the ampule with the needle tip or shaft. Withdraw the amount of drug required for the dosage.				
	With a single-dose ampule, hold the ampule slightly on its side, if necessary, to obtain all the medication.				
	Dispose of the filter needle by placing in a sharps container.				
	If giving an injection replace the filter needle with a regular needle , tighten the cap at the hub of the needle, and push solution into the needle, to the prescribed amount.				
B. Preparing medications from vials					
	PROCEDURE				
1.	Check medication card				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check the label on the vial carefully against the medication card to make sure that the correct medication is being prepared. • Follow the three checks for administering medications. Read the label on the medication: (1) when it is taken from the medication cart; (2) before withdrawing the medication; and (3) after withdrawing the medication 				
2	Assemble and organize the equipment.				
3.	Perform hand hygiene and observe other appropriate infection control procedures.				
4.	Prepare the medication vial for drug withdrawal.				
	Mix the solution, if necessary, rotate the vial between the palms of the hands, do not shake.				
	Remove the protective cap, or clean the rubber cap of a previously opened vial with an antiseptic wipe by rubbing in a circular motion.				

5.	Withdraw the medication				
	Attach a filter needle, as agency practice dictates, to draw up premixed liquid medications from multidose vials.				
	Ensure that the needle is firmly attached to the syringe.				
	Remove the cap from the needle, then draw up into the syringe the amount of air equal to the volume of the medication to be withdrawn.				
	Carefully insert the needle into the upright vial through the center of the rubber cap, maintaining the sterility of the needle.				
	Inject the air into the vial, keeping the bevel of the needle above the surface of the medication.				
	<p>Withdraw the prescribed amount of medication using either of the following methods:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a) Hold the vial down, move the tip of the needle so that it is below the fluid level, and withdraw the medication. Avoid drawing up the last drops of the vial.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">b) Invert the vial, ensure that the tip of the needle is below the fluid level, and gradually withdraw the medication.</p>				
	Hold the syringe and vial at eye level to determine that the correct dosage of drug is drawn into the syringe. Eject air remaining at the top of the syringe into the vial.				
	When the correct volume of medication is obtained, withdraw the needle from the vial, and replace the cap over the needle using the scoop method , thus maintaining its sterility.				
	If necessary, tap the syringe barrel to dislodge any air bubbles present in the syringe.				
	If giving an injection, replace the				

	filter needle used, with a regular needle of the correct gauge and length, cover before injecting the client.				
6.	Check the amount of medication in the syringe with the medication dose and discard any excess.				
7.	Lock the medication cart before leaving it.				
8.	Perform hand hygiene. Wear gloves if indicated and according to Institutional Policy.				
OTHER COMMENTS					

NAMNE AND SIGNATURE OF THE FACULTY/DATE

REFERENCES:

Berman, A., Snyder, S. and Frandsen, G. (2012). *Kozier & Erb's Fundamentals of Nursing: Concepts, Process, and Practice* (10th ed.). New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc.
Lynn, P. (2011). *Taylor's handbook of clinical nursing skills* (1st ed.). Wolters Kluwer Health / Lippincott Williams & Wilkins