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Instructor's Guide

Calculating Drug Dosages

A PATIENT-SAFE APPROACH TO NURSING AND MATH

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge and thank the companies who allowed the reproduction of their drug labels and medication equipment images:

Abbott Laboratories

B. Braun Medical, Inc.

Baxter Healthcare Corporation

Bayer Corporation

Becton, Dickinson and Company

Covis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Eli Lilly & Company

GlaxoSmithKline

Novo Nordisk, Inc.

Pfizer, Inc.

Pfizer Labs Division of Pfizer Inc.

Pharmacia & Upjohn Co Division of Pfizer Inc.

Parke-Davis Division of Pfizer Inc.

PDC Healthcare

Retractable Technologies, Inc.

Sagent Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Smiths Medical

Teva Pharmaceuticals USA Inc

Barr Laboratories Inc

West-Ward Pharmaceutical Corp.

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Basic Math

Basic Math Review

■ ■ Basic Math

Students taking a dosage calculation course should already have a basic understanding of how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and decimals.

AVAILABLE RESOURCES:

Basic Math Interactive Tutorial

Student Practice Worksheet: Using Decimals and Fractions in Medication Administration

Student Practice Worksheet: Using Decimals in Medication Administration Student Practice Worksheet: Rounding Decimals in Medication Administration

Podcast: Math Competency and Anxiety

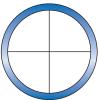
Basic Math Diagnostic Exam

WORKSHEET: USING DECIMALS AND FRACTIONS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Name:

For extra practice, solve the following problems.

1. The nurse is to give $\frac{3}{4}$ of a tablet. Shade in the amount the nurse will give.



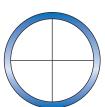
The decimal equivalent of the fraction $\frac{3}{4}$ is _____

2. The nurse is to give $\frac{1}{2}$ of a tablet. Shade in the amount the nurse will give.



The decimal equivalent of the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$ is _____

3. The nurse is to give $\frac{1}{4}$ of a tablet. Shade in the amount the nurse will give.



The decimal equivalent of the fraction $\frac{1}{4}$ is _____

4. The following tablets were given to the patient during the 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. shift. What is the total number of tablets that the day nurse gave the patient during the shift? _____

Medication	Amount	Time Given
Digoxin 0.25 mg PO daily	tab $\frac{1}{2}$	[9 a.m.]
KCI 10 mEq PO twice a day	tab $1\frac{1}{2}$	[10 a.m.]
Furosemide 20 mg PO daily	tab $\frac{1}{2}$	[10 a.m.]
Levothyroxine 0.1 mg PO daily	tab 1	[10 a.m.]
Hydralazine 15 mg PO daily	tab 1 <u>1</u>	[10 a.m.]
Meperidine 50 mg PO q3h PRN pain	tab 1	[7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.]
Meperidine 100 mg PO q3h PRN pain	tabs 2	[10:30 a.m.]

5.	The doctor orders 0.65 g of a medication. The pharmacy sends the following: one bottle of tablets
	labeled 0.225 g per tablet and another bottle labeled 0.2 g per tablet.

If the nurse gives one tablet from each bottle, the patient will receive _____ g. To give the ordered dose, the nurse must give _____ tablet(s) of 0.225 g and _____ tablets(s) of 0.2 g.

6. The doctor orders 7.5 mg of a medication. The pharmacy sends the following: one bottle of capsules labeled 3 mg per capsule and another bottle labeled 1.5 mg per capsule.

If the nurse gives one capsule from each bottle, the patient will receive _____ mg.

To give the ordered dose, the nurse must give _____ of the 3 mg capsules(s) and ____ of the 1.5 mg capsules(s).

WORKSHEET: USING DECIMALS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

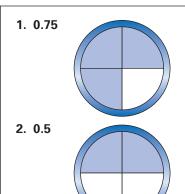
ame:	
ate:	<u></u>
	e's Orders and the Drug Label to solve the following problems. ordered amount from the Physician's Orders by the amount found on
Date Physician's Orders 7/24 Give 0.5 of Drug A. Patient's name ID ************************************	Drug Label Drug A 0.25
The calculated dose is:	—
Date Physician's Orders	Drug Label
7/24 Give 0.125 of Drug B.	Drug B 0.5
Patient's name ID ********	·
The calculated dose is:	
Date Physician's Orders	Drug Label
7/24 Give 2.25 of Drug C.	Drug C 4.5
Patient's name ID *********	<u> </u>
The calculated dose is:	_
Date Physician's Orders	Drug Label
7/24 Give 150 of Drug D.	Drug D 1.2
Patient's name	
ID *******	
The calculated dose is:	_
Date Physician's Orders	Drug Label
7/24 Give 6.25 of Drug E.	Drug E 25
Patient's name ID **********	
The calculated dose is:	

WORKSHEET: ROUNDING DECIMALS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Nar	me:
Dat	e:
For	extra practice, solve the following problems.
1.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 1.67777 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the thousandths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
2.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 1.67777 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the hundredths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
3.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 1.67777 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the tenths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
4.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 1.67777 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to a whole number. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
5.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 2.43333 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the thousandths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
6.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 2.43333 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the hundredths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
7.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 2.43333 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the tenths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
8.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 2.43333 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to a whole number. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
9.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 0.45 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to the tenths place. The nurse will give mL of the drug.
10.	After calculating a drug dose, the nurse arrives at 1.84 mL as the answer. The nurse is instructed to round the answer to a whole number. The nurse will give mL of the drug.

Answers to Worksheets

WORKSHEET: USING DECIMALS AND FRACTIONS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION



- 3. 0.25
- 4. 8 tablets
- 5. 0.425 g

2 tabs of 0.225 g and 1 tab of 0.2 g

4.5 mg
 of the 3 mg capsules and 1 of the 1.5 mg
 capsules OR 1 of the 3 mg capsules and 3 of
 the 1.5 mg capsules

WORKSHEET: USING DECIMALS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- 1. The calculated dose is 2.
- 2. The calculated dose is 0.25.
- 3. The calculated dose is 0.5.

- 4. The calculated dose is 125.
- 5. The calculated dose is 0.25.

WORKSHEET: ROUNDING DECIMALS IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

- 1. Thousandths place = 1.678
- 2. Hundredths place = 1.68
- 3. Tenths place = 1.7
- 4. Whole number = 2
- 5. Thousandths place = 2.433

- 6. Hundredths place = 2.43
- 7. Tenths place = 2.4
- 8. Whole number = 2
- 9. Tenths place = 0.5
- 10. Whole number = 2

Basic Math Diagnostic Exam

BASIC MATH DIAGNOSTIC EXAM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score:

Instructions: Solve the following problems. Reduce all fractions to the lowest terms. Show all work in the space provided. Write your answer on the answer line. Each question is worth 5 points.

■ ■ Addition:

2.
$$34.88 + 3,640 + 7 + 0.41 =$$

4.
$$18\frac{2}{9} + \frac{5}{3} + \frac{4}{12} =$$

5.
$$6\frac{1}{5} + 4\frac{2}{3} + \frac{1}{2} =$$

■ ■ Subtraction:

9.
$$11\frac{3}{8} - 4\frac{6}{10} = -$$

10.
$$5\frac{3}{4} - 2\frac{4}{5} =$$

■ ■ Multiplication:

12.
$$4\frac{2}{7} \times \frac{1}{2} =$$

13.
$$3\frac{1}{3} \times 1\frac{5}{6} =$$

14.
$$25\frac{2}{5} \times 5 =$$

<u>DIVISION:</u> Work division problems three places to the right of the decimal point. Round the final answer to the hundredths place (two places to the right of the decimal point).

18.
$$4\frac{1}{5} \div \frac{1}{75} =$$

19.
$$4\frac{1}{4} \div 1\frac{1}{2} =$$

20.
$$2\frac{1}{5} \div 3 =$$

Answers

PROBLEM	ANSWER
1.	18,207
2.	3682.29
3.	4054.0853
4.	$20\frac{2}{9}$ or 20.22
5.	$11\frac{11}{30}$ or 11.37
6.	24,468
7.	3.176
8.	40.318
9.	$6\frac{31}{40}$ or 6.78
10.	$2\frac{19}{20}$ or 2.95
11.	1,523,312
12.	$2\frac{1}{7}$ or 2.14
13.	$6\frac{1}{9}$ or 6.11
14.	127
15.	36.75525
16.	37.67
17.	0.4
18.	315
19.	$2\frac{5}{6}$ or 2.83
20.	$\frac{11}{15}$ or 0.73

Safety in Medication Administration

Safety in Medication Administration

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Discuss safety practices that help to prevent medication administration errors.
- Identify medication safety practices that assist patients and families in taking greater responsibility for management of their medication therapy.
- Discuss how the Six Rights of Medication Administration promote safe practice.

■ ■ Available Resources:

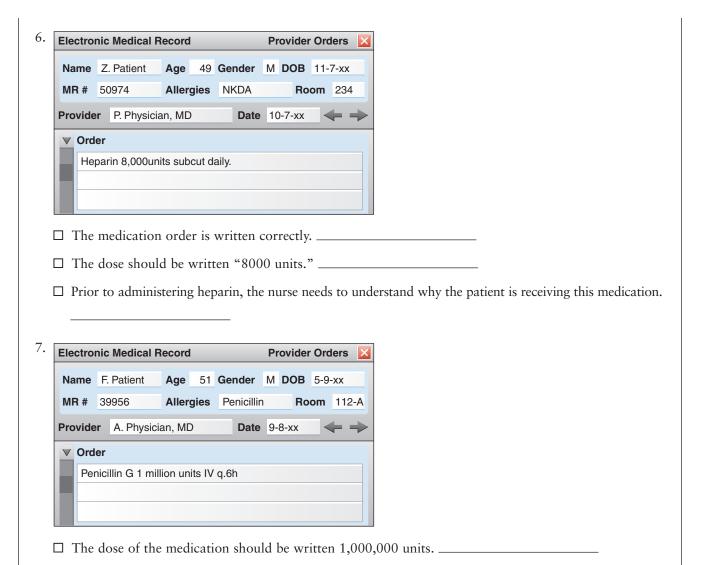
Student Practice Worksheet: Safety in Medication Administration Safe Dosage Resources: ISMP Standards, Joint Commission DNU List, BEERS criteria

Podcasts: Promoting Patient Safety & Medication Errors

Chapter 1 PowerPoint Instructor test bank

CHAPTER 1: SAFETY IN MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

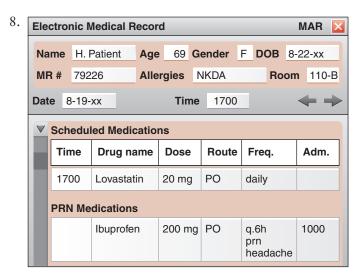
Name:		
Date:		
Instructions: For questions 1 to 4, select True if the statement is true; select Fals	e if the statement	is false.
	True	False
1. For safe practice, the nurse must use one accurate patient identifier before administering any medication.		
2. Best practices in medication administration include providing the nurse with a quiet, distraction-free area to prepare medications.		
3. The Six Rights of Medication Administration include right drug, dose, route, patient, time, and documentation.		
4. The primary focus of a culture of safety is collaboration of all health-care professionals to determine who was responsible for a medical error.		
Instructions: Check (\mathbf{V}) the correct statement(s) that apply to the following med for your answer.	'ication orders. Gi	ve a rationale
5. Electronic Medical Record Provider Orders		
Name I. Patient Age 76 Gender M DOB 12-1-xx		
MR # 98322 Allergies NKDA Room 317-1		
Provider T. Physician, MD Date 2-19-xx		
Order		
Clonidine 0.1 mg. PO at bedtime.		
☐ The medication order has a trailing zero		
☐ The medication order contains all of the necessary components		
☐ There should not be a period (.) after the unit of measurement		
= and not be a period (1) and the different d		



☐ The nurse is correct to question the ordered medication. _

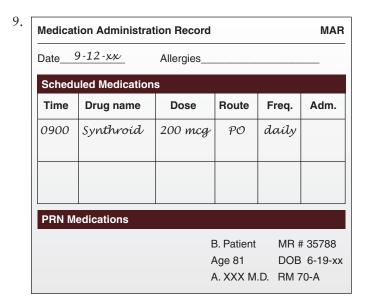
☐ The medication order contains all of the necessary components. _

Instructions: Check (V) the most appropriate nursing action(s) for the following medication orders.



The nurse is reviewing the electronic medication administration record (MAR) of the patient. For the 1500—2300 p.m. shift, the nurse is correct to:

- ☐ Administer lovastatin to the patient at 1700.
- ☐ Delay the administration of ibuprofen until bedtime.
- ☐ Administer ibuprofen with lovastatin at 1700 if the patient has a headache.



A patient is admitted at 0830 to the hospital unit. The day shift nurse is reviewing the paper copy of the newly admitted patient's MAR. The most appropriate clinical decision for the nurse is to:

- ☐ Administer the 0900 dose as ordered.
- ☐ Check to see if the patient has taken the morning dose of Synthroid at home.
- \square Ask another nurse to verify the dose.
- ☐ Question the patient's allergies to medication. The allergy box on the patient's MAR has no data entered.

Medicat	ion Administrati	on Record			MAR
Date	8-13-xx	Allergies	NKI	DA	
Schedu	uled Medications	;			
Time	Drug name	Dose	Route	Freq.	Adm.
1400	NíMODípine	60 mg	PO	q.4h	
PRN M	edications				
			G. Patient	: MR i	# 94421
			Age 39		4-22-xx
			J. XXX M.	D. RM 1	0-1
The nur	se is reviewing	g the pape	er copy	of a pat	ient's M
□ Inter	pret that the 1	.400 dose	of the	drug ha	s not be
	stion the tall m			Ü	
•	stion the frequ		Ü	Ü	
□ Que	stion the nequ	circy or a	amminst	ation	itii tiic j

 $\hfill\square$ Interpret that the medication order is written correctly.

Answers

Chapter 1:

- 1. False: The nurse must use two patient identifiers before administering a medication.
- 2. True
- 3. True
- 4. False: A culture of safety promotes collaboration to find solutions to minimize medication errors. Errors are examined not to punish an individual but to change the system or process that led to the error.
- 5.

 The medication order does not have a trailing zero; it has a leading zero which is required for a decimal fraction.
 - The medication order contains all of the necessary components including the drug name, dose, route, and frequency of administration.
 - There should not be a period (.) after the mg unit of measurement. This is one of the standards of practice for medication orders published by the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP).
- 6.

 The medication order is not written correctly; there should be a space between the drug name and dosage.
 - ☐ The dose should not be written "8000 units." A comma needs to be used for dose numbers expressed in thousands.
 - Prior to administering heparin (or any drug), the nurse needs to understand why the patient is receiving this medication.
- 7.

 The dose of the medication should not be written 1,000,000 units. Use the word "million" for doses expressed in millions
 - ☑ The nurse is correct to question the ordered medication since the electronic medical record states that the patient is allergic to penicillin.
 - ☑ The medication order contains all of the necessary components including the drug name, dose, route, and frequency of administration.
- 8. ☑ Administer lovastatin to the patient at 1700.
 - Administer ibuprofen with lovastatin at 1700 if the patient has a headache.
- 9. Check to see if the patient has taken the morning dose of Synthroid at home.
 - Question the patient's allergies to medication since there is no information listed on the MAR.
- 10. ☑ Interpret that the 1400 dose of the drug has not been administered.
 - ☑ Interpret that the medication order is written correctly.

Chapter

2

The Drug Label

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Describe the information found on the drug label.
- State how each component on the drug label is used in clinical practice.

■ ■ Available Resources:

Student Practice Worksheet: The Drug Label

Safe Dosage Resources: ISMP Standards, Joint Commission DNU List, BEERS criteria

Podcasts: Promoting Patient Safety & Medication Errors

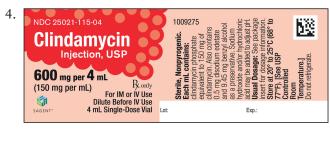
Chapter 2 PowerPoint Instructor test bank

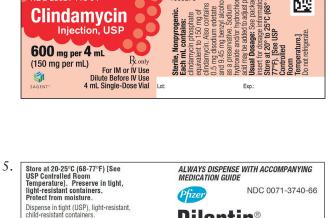
CHAPTER 2: THE DRUG LABEL

Name: _ Date: _ Instructions: Read the drug labels and answer the corresponding questions. For all incorrect information, write the correct answer. a. The trade name is Lorazepam. YES/NO NDC 0641-6044-25 Each mL contains 2 mg lorazepam, 0.18 mL polyethylene glycol 400 b. The dosage strength is 2 mg/mL. YES/NO in propylene glycol with 2.0% benzyl alcohol as Injection, USP preservative. c. The drug is a controlled subtance. YES/NO R only 2 mg/mL **Usual Dosage:** See enclosed information. 25 x 1 mL Vials Do not use if solution is d. Storage instructions are given. YES/NO FOR IM USE; discolored or contains a FOR IV USE DILUTION REQUIRED. precipitate. PROTECT FROM LIGHT e. The total amount of drug in each YES/NO **SEE ENCLOSED DIRECTIONS** Use this carton to protect Manufactured by vial is 2 mL. contents from light. **WEST-WARD** STORE IN A Eatontown, NJ 07724 USA 462-164-01 REFRIGERATOR 2. The trade name is lincomycin. YES/NO Store at controlled room NDC 0009-0555-02 temperature 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP]. The dosage strength is 300 mg/mL. YES/NO incocin® DOSAGE AND USE:
See accompanying prescribing lincomycin information. The total amount of drug is 1 mL. YES/NO Warning: If given intravenously, injection, USP must be diluted before use. * Each mL contains lincomycin <u>300 mg/mĽ</u> Storage instructions are given. YES/NO hydrochloride equivalent to 300 mg lincomycin. Also contains For intramuscular 9.45 mg benzyl alcohol added as a YES/NO e. This drug is administered subcut. preservative. or intravenous use Distributed by Pharmacia & Upjohn Co Division of Pfizer Inc, NY, NY 10017 1-10 mL Vial Rx only a. The generic name is glipizide. YES/NO 3. NDC 0049-1620-30 30 Tablets b. The total quantity is 30 tablets. YES/NO **Glucotrol XL®** (glipizide) c. The nurse needs to check the YES/NO extended release expiration date before administering. 2.5 ma **GITS** d. The dosage strength is 2.5 mg. YES/NO Distributed by Roerig
Division of Pfizer Inc, NY, NY 10017 e. The route of administration is p.o. YES/NO

YES/NO

YES/NO





Pediatric Dose - Initially, 5 mg/kg daily in two or three equally divided doses, with subsequent dosage individualized to a maximum of 300 mg daily. See package insert for complete prescribing information.

NOTE TO PHARMACISTS

Do not dispense capsules which are discolored. Each capsule contains 30 mg phenytoin sodium, USP. Distributed by Parke-Davis Division of Pfizer Inc, NY, NY 10017 **Dilantin**®

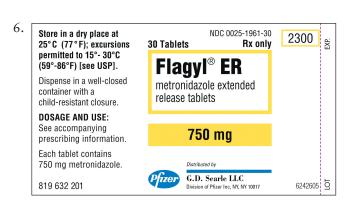
30 mg

100 Capsules

(extended phenytoin sodium capsules, USP)

Rx only

a. Total amount in vial is 4 mL. YES/NO b. The dosage strength is 150 mg/mL. YES/NO c. The drug is in a multidose vial. YES/NO d. The drug is a controlled substance. YES/NO e. The route of administration is YES/NO IM or IV. a. The dosage strength of Dilantin is YES/NO 30 mg / 100 capsules.



b. The total quantity is 30 tablets. YES/NO c. Storage information is provided. YES/NO d. The tablets can be divided in YES/NO half evenly. e. The route of administration is p.o. YES/NO

a. The generic name is Flagyl ER.

a. The drug name contains tall man

drug.



lettering. b. The dosage strength is 15 mg/mL. YES/NO c. This is a fixed dose combination YES/NO



- a. The heparin drug label lists YES/NO two dosage strengths.
- b. This drug label identifies a black YES/NO box warning.

9. NDC 0173-0178-55

Three Times Daily (After Initial Titration)

100 mg

WELLBUTRIN® (bupropion HCI) Tablets

WARNING: Do not use with other medicines that contain bupropion HCL

Federal Law requires dispensing of WELLBUTRIN® with the Medication Guide under this label.

Each film-coated tablet contains 100 mg bupropion HCl. See prescribina information for dosage information. Store at room temperature between 59°F and 86°F (15°C to 30°C). Keep dry and out of the light. Manufactured for: GlaxoSmithkline Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Made in Germany

a. The dosage strength is 100 mg per YES/NO tablet.

b. This drug label identifies a black YES/NO box warning.

100 Tablets Ronly 10000000124133

10.

FOR INTRAVENOUS OR INTRAMUSCULAR USE
Preservative-free

25 x 5 mL Single Dose Vials

Single Dose – Destroy Unused Contents.
Each mL contains fentaryl clitate equivalent to 50 mcg (0.05 mg) fentaryl base in Water for Injection, pH (4.0-7.5; sodium hydroxide and/or hydroxide and/

- a. The nurse can use any of the dosage strengths listed to solve drug dosage problems.

 YES/NO
- b. This drug label identifies a controlled YES/NO substance.

Answers

Chapter 2:

```
1. a. No
              Lorazepam is the generic name.
    b. Yes
    c. Yes
    d. Yes
    e. No
              1 mL is the total amount in each vial.
2. a. No
              The trade name is Lincocin.
    b. Yes
    c. No
              10 \text{ mL}
    d. Yes
              IM or IV
    e. No
3. a. Yes
    b. Yes
    c. Yes
              2.5 mg/tablet
    d. No
    e. Yes
4. a. Yes
    b. Yes
    c. No
              Single-dose vial
    d. No
              Not a controlled substance
    e. Yes
              30 mg / 1 capsule
5. a. No
              Metronidazole is the generic name.
6. a. No
    b. Yes
    c. Yes
    d. No
              Not scored / extended-release tablets—do not break
    e. Yes
7. a. Yes
    b. No
              15 mg / 5 mL
    c. No
              Oral solution contains prednisoLONE only
8. a. Yes
    b. No
              No indication of black box warning on label
9. a. Yes
    b. Yes
10. a. Yes
    b. Yes
```

Unit 2

Systems of Measurement

The Metric System

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- List the base units of metric measurement commonly used in clinical practice.
- Identify the metric prefixes and symbols, and the numeric equivalents.
- Write metric numbers using the standard rules for writing metric notations.
- Convert between the metric units of measurement.

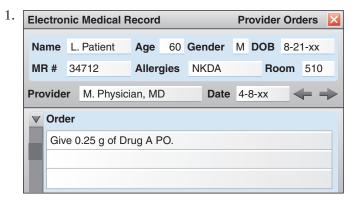
■ ■ Available Resources:

Student Practice Worksheet: The Metric System Chapter 3 PowerPoint Instructor test bank Date: ____

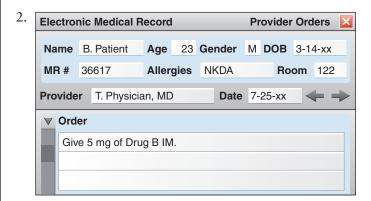
CHAPTER 3: THE METRIC SYSTEM

Name:					
		Τ			

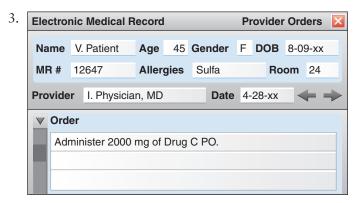
Instructions: Read the Physician's Orders and write your answer on the answer line.



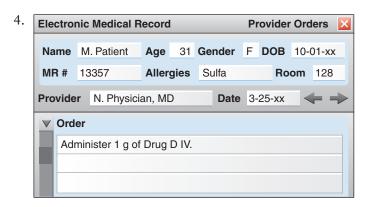
How many mg of Drug A will the nurse give?



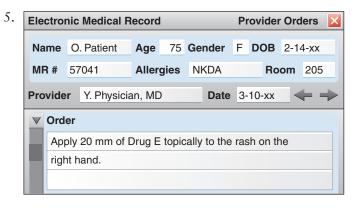
How many mcg of Drug B will the nurse give?



How many g of Drug C will the nurse give?



How many mcg of Drug D will the nurse give?



How many cm of Drug E will the nurse apply?

Instructions: Use the metric notation rules to correct the following metric notations.

	Metric Notation Error	Corrected Metric Notation
625 mL =		
7. $\frac{3}{4}$ mg =		
8. 30 kgs =		
9. 14mcg =		
10. $5.0 \text{ cm} =$		

Answers

Chapter 3:

- 1. 250 mg
- 2. 5,000 mcg
- 3. 2 g
- 4. 1,000,000 mcg
- 5. 2 cm
- 6. Always place a zero before a decimal when there is no number: $0.25\ mL$
- 7. Use decimal fractions, not fractional units: 0.75 mg
- 8. Write the symbols in the singular form: 30 kg
- 9. Always put a space between the Arabic number and the metric symbol: 14 mcg
- 10. Omit trailing zeros: 5 cm

The Household System

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify the common household units of measurement used in clinical practice.
- Write the household units of measurement using the correct abbreviations.
- Identify the equivalent measurements for the household and metric units.
- Use metric equivalent measurements to convert common household measurements.
- Solve drug dosage problems using household units.

■ ■ Available Resources:

Student Practice Worksheet: The Household System

Chapter 4 PowerPoint Instructor test bank

CHAPTER 4: THE HOUSEHOLD SYSTEM

Name:

Date:

Instructions: Read the Physician's Orders and complete the answers.

Name H. Patient Age 31 Gender F DOB 9-27-xx

MR # 54201 Allergies NKDA Room 316

Provider S. Physician, MD Date 4-11-xx

V Order

Give 2 Tbs of Drug V.

How many tsp will the nurse give?

Fill in the medicine cup with the ordered dose.



Name L. Patient Age 53 Gender M DOB 12-5-xx
MR # 11238 Allergies NKDA Room 245

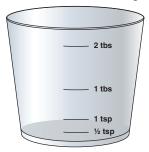
Provider L. Physician, MD Date 8-17-xx

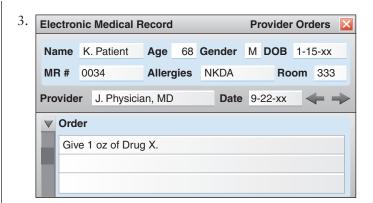
V Order

Give 3 tsp of Drug W.

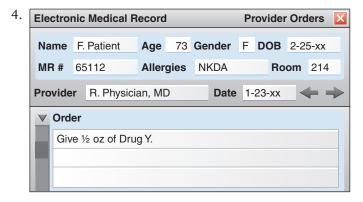
How many Tbs will the nurse give?

Fill in the medicine cup with the ordered dose.



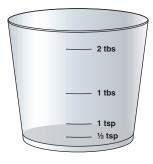


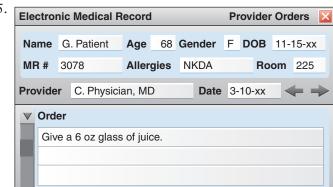
The nurse will give _____ Ths of Drug X.



How many tsp will the nurse give?

Fill in the medicine cup with the ordered dose.





How many Tbs are contained in 6 oz?

Instructions: Fill in the information for the following problems.							
			Standard Abbreviation	on(s)	Household Measureme	Equivalent ent	Metric Equivalent Measurement
6.	ounce	=					
7.	teaspoon	=					
8.	tablespoon	. =					
9.	9. The doctor orders 15 mL of a liquid antibiotic for the patient every 12 hours. The nurse informs the patient to take 2 tsp of the medication at 9 a.m. and another 2 tsp at 9 p.m. Has the nurse provided the patient with the correct instructions?						
	□ Yes			No			
10.	10. The patient is to take 1 oz of a liquid cough medicine every 8 hours. The nurse informs the patient to take 2 Tbs of the medication at 6 a.m., 2 p.m., and 10 p.m. The cough medicine bottle contains 9 oz of medication. The nurse tells the patient that she has cough medicine for 3 days. Has the nurse provided the correct information?						
	□ Yes			No			