Drawing Up Medication from a Vial or Ampule

Preparation

1. Refer to your Patient Resource Guide and medication label. They can provide details on how to handle and store medication.
2. Clean your work area.
3. Wash your hands thoroughly for 20 seconds using antibacterial soap and water. Remove any dirt from under your nails. Dry your hands with a paper towel or clean (unused) hand towel. If you do not have access to soap and water, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Gathering Your Supplies

Gather the following items:

- Medication vial(s) or ampule(s)
- Syringe with needle
- Filter needle/straw needle, and extra needle (ampule only)
- Antiseptic wipes
- Sharps container

Inspecting the Medication Label and Vial/Ampule

Closely check these items for the following:

- Correct name
- Correct rate and dose
- Expiration date
- No particles in the solution

Drawing Up Your Medication

If you are using a vial:

4. Flip the cap off of the medication vial.
5. Clean the top of the vial with an antiseptic wipe for 15 seconds.
6. Remove the syringe and needle from package. Remove the cover from the syringe needle. The tip of the syringe is sterile; do not touch it or let it touch any surface. If you do, discard this syringe and use a new one.
7. Pull back on the syringe plunger to add air to the syringe. The air amount should be equal to the amount of medication to be to be withdrawn from the vial.
8. Insert the needle into the center of the vial. Gently pull back on the syringe plunger and slowly push air into the vial.

9. To withdraw the medication ordered, turn the vial upside down and pull back on the plunger. Keep the tip of the needle in the medication.

10. Remove the syringe from the vial once the correct amount of medication is in the syringe.

11. Remove all air from the syringe. To do this, gently tap on the syringe and push in the plunger until all the air is pushed out of syringe.

12. If you are adding multivitamins to your TPN bag, there will be two vials. You may use the same syringe for each vial.

If you are using an ampule:

1. Gently tap the top of the ampule with your finger. (This helps you make sure that all the medication is in the bottom part of the ampule.)

2. Wrap an antiseptic wipe around the top of the ampule.

3. Snap off the top of the ampule using your finger and thumb. (Make sure to snap away from you.) Discard the top into the sharps container. Place the medication ampule upright on a flat surface.

4. Attach the filter/straw needle to the syringe by twisting clockwise. If you are using a filter needle, remove the cover.

5. Insert the filter/straw needle into the opening of the ampule.

6. Draw back on the plunger to the amount of medication ordered.

7. Remove the syringe from the ampule.

8. Remove all air from the syringe. To do this, gently tap on the syringe and push in the plunger until all the air is pushed out of syringe.

9. Remove the filter/straw from the syringe. Replace it with a new non-filter needle before adding the medication to the bag.

Note: For more information, refer to Coram’s patient education video Drawing Up Medication from a Vial or Ampule on WeNourish.com.

Inserting Additives into the Medication Bag

1. Before injecting each additive, scrub the injection port with an antiseptic wipe for 15 seconds.

2. Insert the syringe needle slowly and directly into the center of the injection port. Be careful not to puncture the bag. **If you puncture the bag, do not use it. Call your Coram clinician.**

3. Push in the syringe plunger to inject medication into the bag.

4. Remove the syringe and discard it into the sharps container.

5. Gently knead the bag to mix the additives with the medication.