

How to read a medicine syringe

To give a liquid medicine by mouth:

1. Use a syringe made for medicine to be given by mouth
2. Use the smallest syringe that will measure the amount of medicine you need.

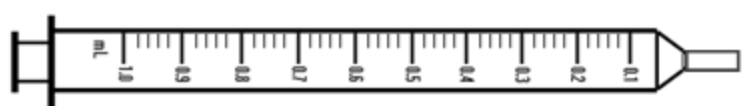
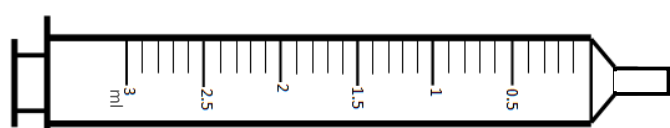
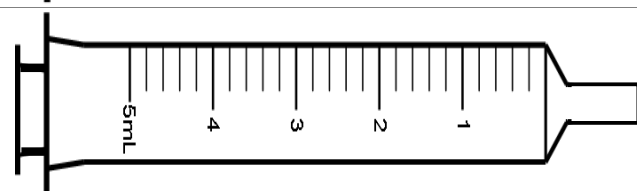
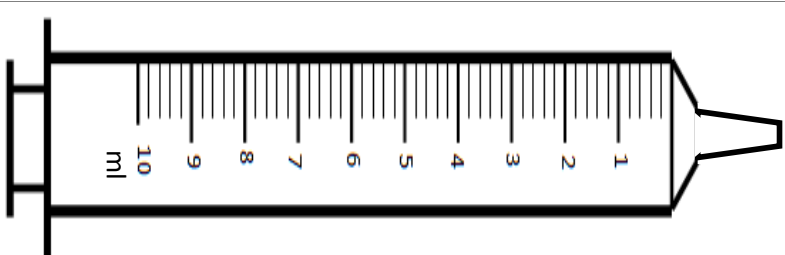
A dose of liquid medicine is measured in milliliters, or "ml" for short. Ask your pharmacist to show you how to measure the right amount of each medicine in the right syringe. Check with the pharmacist each time you get medicine because the concentration or dose may have changed.

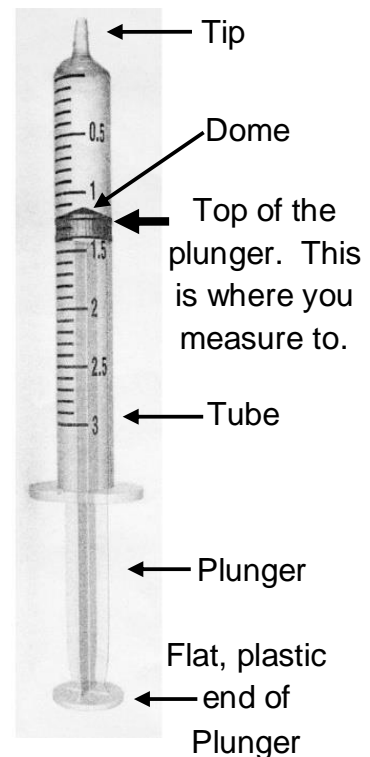
Ask the pharmacist for the correct syringe for the medicine.

There are 2 parts to a syringe:

1. The outer part is a tube that has lines to measure the correct amount of medicine.
2. The inner part is the plunger. Measure to where the top of the plunger meets the medicine. If the syringe has a dome, do not measure to the dome.

Here are examples of oral syringes. It is important to look at the numbers on the side to see what size it is. The syringe from your pharmacy may look different.

1 ml	
3 ml	
5 ml	
10 ml	

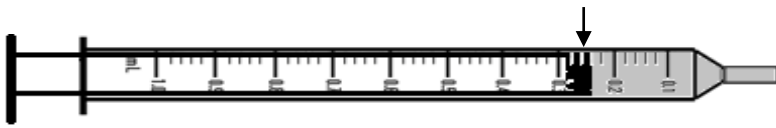


How to measure

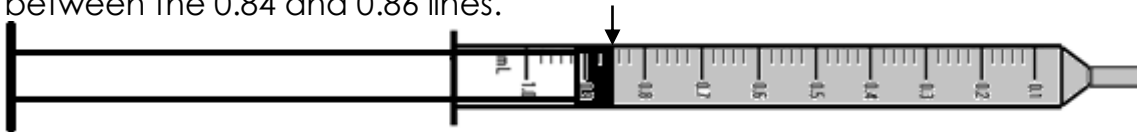
On a **1 ml syringe**, the longer lines are marked with numbers for each 0.1 ml. The short lines measure 0.02 ml. (0.02, 0.04, 0.06, 0.08). Some syringes have more lines. Be sure to ask your pharmacy how to measure.

Example: 0.24 ml: Fill a 1 ml syringe with medicine until the top of the plunger is at the 0.24 line.

See each arrow on each syringe for where to draw up the medicine.

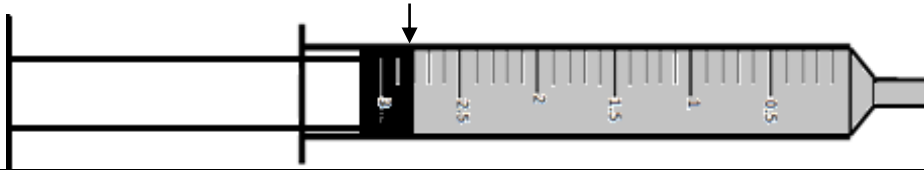


Example: 0.85 ml There is no 0.85 line. Fill a 1 ml syringe until the top of the plunger is between the 0.84 and 0.86 lines.



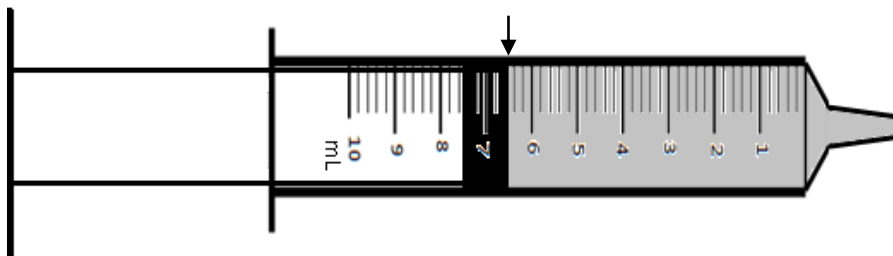
On a **3 ml syringe**, the longer lines are marked with numbers for each 0.5 and 1 ml. The short lines measure 0.1 ml. (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, **0.5**, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9)

Example: 2.8 ml: Fill a 3 ml syringe with medicine until the top of the plunger is at 2.8.



On **5, 10 and 12 ml** syringes, the longer lines are marked for each 1 ml. The short lines measure 0.2 ml. (0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8)

Example: 6.5 ml: There is no 6.5 line. Fill a 10 ml syringe until the top of the plunger is between the 6.4 and 6.6 lines.



Important safety tips:

- Check each time that you have the correct syringe for the correct medicine.
- Spoons are not all the same size. **Do not use** a spoon to measure your child's medicine.
- Syringe caps are a choking hazard. If the syringe came with a cap, store the cap away from children. If you do not need the cap, throw it away.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.