Caring Safely at Home
palliative care education for caregivers

Step by Step Guide
Opening and Drawing Up from an Ampoule

Instructions

1. Wash your hands with soap and water and dry well.



2. Assemble the equipment in a clean container.



3. Attach blunt drawing up needle to luer-lock syringes.
   - Take the syringe out of the packet
   - Put the needle onto the syringe using a twisting action until secure



4. Opening an ampoule:

   a) For a plastic ampoule:
   - Simply twist the top of the ampoule until it is removed.

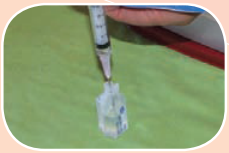


   b) For a glass ampoule:
   - Hold the ampoule upright with the pointed end at the top
   - Check all fluid removed from neck of ampoule
   - If not, gently flick the top of the ampoule until the fluid runs back into it
   - If there is a dot on the ampoule ensure the dot is facing away from you
   - Hold the ampoule in one hand, using the other hand to snap the neck of the ampoule away from you.



5. Drawing up medication from an ampoule:
   - Hold the ampoule in your non-dominant hand upside down at a slight angle or in a position that is comfortable for you such as on a table
   - The medication should not come out of the ampoule if you tip it upside down
   - Insert the needle into the ampoule
   - Draw the medication into the syringe by slowly pulling back on the plunger of the syringe
   - Once fluid is in the syringe, take the needle out of the ampoule.





6. Dispose of the ampoule directly into the sharps or hard walled container.



7. Point the needle to the ceiling, flicking the syringe with your index finger to get all air bubbles in the syringe to move to the top. Slowly push the plunger of the syringe upwards until you have the correct dose/amount as instructed by the doctor/nurse.



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