

## When Adminstrating Medicines

### Five Rights

- Right Person
  - Right Medicine
  - Right Dose
  - Right Route
  - Right Time
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- Important facts to know about each medicine
    - Name (brand/generic)
    - Why patient is taking
    - Appearance of medication
    - Common side effects or interactions with foods/drugs
  
  - Medication forms
    - Tablets—dry, powdery pills to be swallowed or chewed (such as aspirin/Tylenol)
    - Capsules—gelatin coating with med inside
    - Lozenge—such as cough drop
    - Elixir—liquids dissolved in alcohol or water
    - Suspensions—liquid that much be shaken before giving
    - Syrups—liquids dissolved in sugar
    - Topical—apply to skin
  
  - Tips for administering meds:
    - Not all meds can be safely split, crushed, or chewed, so check before this is done
    - Disguise taste by mixing in fruit juice, putting in applesauce/pudding/ice cream
    - Only measure liquid meds with measuring cup provided
    - Wear gloves when applying ointments or topical patches, so as not to absorb medication through own skin
    - Read all directions carefully
    - Check expiration dates
    - Always leave medications in their original containers and don't mix old and new bottles
    - Use pill boxes/organizers and document when medications are given

