

Preparing and Administering Medications Using ENFit®: Procedure for Use in the Home Setting

Purpose of this procedure: To help draw up and give medications using the ENFit system. This procedure will be used for any age patient and any home care setting.

Background: The ENFit® system is a new way to connect syringes to feeding tubes. It promotes safety. The syringes come as two types: low dose and standard dose syringes.



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ENFit Low Dose
Tip Syringe

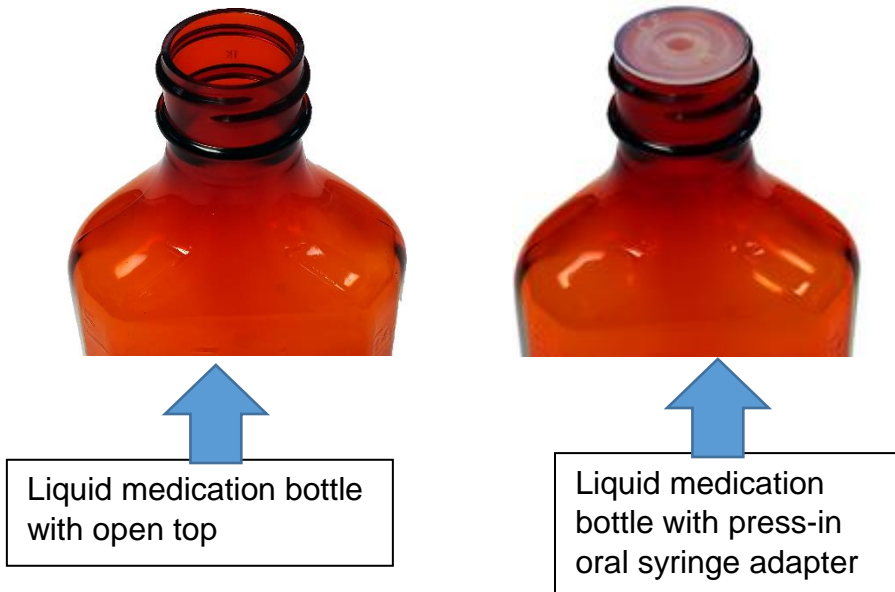
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ENFit Standard Tip
Syringe

Low dose tip syringes are typically of sizes 6 mL and smaller but may vary as defined by the manufacturer. The standard ENFit tip is used on all other size syringes. **You will not be able to use your previous syringes on a feeding tube or extension set with an ENFit connector.** Always check with the manufacturer's instructions for use for proper use of devices as each manufacturer may have unique recommendations. We encourage you to work with your home care provider and pharmacy to allow enough medication to be dispensed from the pharmacy to meet your needs.

Always consult the syringe manufacturer instructions for use. These are guidelines for general filling practices and do not supersede the manufacturer recommendations.

MEDICATION PREPARATION (FILLING THE SYRINGE)

Below are examples of the current tops of medication bottles. These won't work **DIRECTLY** with the new ENFit syringes but we will show you how to make it work. There are three ways to fill the syringes: 1. using a medication straw, 2. using a bottle fill cap, or 3. using a medication cup.



Filling the Syringe Using a Medication Straw

Step 1. Gather the Supplies You Will Need:

- A. Medication bottle
- B. ENFit Medication Straw

Example of a Medication Straw



Carefully tap or flick the syringe to remove the air bubble to remove air bubbles.

C. ENFit Syringes

D. Water for Flushing

Step 2. Wash hands.

Step 3. Connect the ENFit syringe to the medication straw.

Step 4. Put the straw into the medication bottle.

Step 5. Draw up the medication dose.



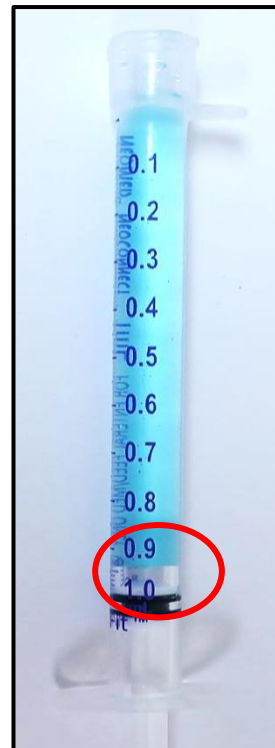
ENFit Syringe with Medication Straw in Liquid Medication Bottle

Step 6. Take the straw off the syringe and gently tap the straw to remove any medication. The extra drug lost in the medication straw may cause more medication being wasted than usual.

Step 7. When using a low dose tip syringe, make sure there are no air bubbles in the syringe. During the filling process, carefully tap or flick the syringe to remove the air bubble



Carefully tap or flick the syringe to remove the air bubble to remove air bubbles.



Filling the Syringe Using a Bottle Fill Cap



Three examples of ENFit Compatible Bottle Fill Caps

Step 1. Determine if you have access to a medication bottle ENFit compatible fill cap. Work with your medical device supplier or pharmacy to determine available options for the ENFit system.

Step 2. With the ENFit fill cap attached, connect the ENFit syringe. Gently turn the medication bottle upside down. Pull and push back the syringe plunger to cycle it once or more (this helps to eliminate air bubbles). Then withdraw the desired medication dose. When ready, return the bottle to its upright position and remove the syringe.



Attach the syringe to the bottle adapter



Turn the bottle upside down



Draw solution into the syringe.

IMPORTANT: To help remove air bubbles, quickly push and pull the syringe plunger back and forth a few times.



When complete, turn bottle right side up and remove syringe

FILLING THE SYRINGE FROM A MEDICATION CUP

If the medication comes in a dose cup and must be transferred to an enteral syringe, the syringe can be prepared in two ways. NOTE: Filling the syringe via a cup is not the preferred method for filling the syringe.

A) RECOMMENDED: Use an ENFit medication straw shown above.

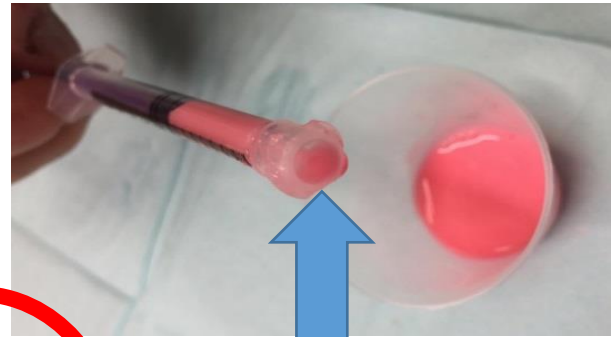
B) Step 1. If medication straw not available, put the tip of the syringe into the medication cup after cycling the syringe (pulling and pushing the plunger back and forth) and gently pull up on the syringe plunger to fill the syringe.



Step 2. Remove air bubbles and then flick the syringe or wipe off the end of the syringe to remove excess medication in the moat tip.



Step 3. In the event that there is excess fluid in the “moat” of the syringe tip, it is recommended to tap/flick/wipe that excess fluid away.



Low dose tip syringe with moat empty



Low dose tip syringe with moat full of medication

FOR ALL FILL METHODS

If the dose will not be given right away, ENFit syringe caps can be placed on the end of the syringe. (WORK WITH YOUR PHARMACY TO ACQUIRE ENFIT COMPATIBLE SYRINGE CAPS.)



Example of ENFit Syringe and Syringe Cap

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Step 1. Twist the ENFit syringe into the ENFit medication port or feeding tube port after flushing the tube.

Step 2. Gently push the syringe plunger to give the medication.

Step 3. After giving the medication, twist the syringe to unlock the connection.

Step 4. Flush the medication port according to instructions, being sure the medication gets down in the tube.

Oral Applications

When considering using an ENFit syringe for oral route medication administration, contact the syringe manufacturer for specific indications for use and instructions. May also contact your pharmacist, home care supplier, or healthcare provider.

For more information on the ENFit low dose syringe, see GEDSA's [ENFit Low Dose Tip presentation \(www.stayconnected.org\)](http://www.stayconnected.org).

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