

Preparing and Administering Medications Using ENFit®: Procedure for Inpatient Settings

Purpose of this procedure: Outline the preparation and administration of medication doses using the ENFit system. This procedure will be applicable to patients all age groups in inpatient settings.

Background: The ENFit® system is the new industry standard for enteral connectors. It promotes patient safety by reducing the risk of misconnection between unrelated systems by implementing a unique mechanical design. The syringes are available in 2 tip versions: low dose and standard dose.



ENFit Low Dose
Tip Syringe



ENFit Standard Tip
Syringe

The low dose tip is typically used on syringes 6 mL and smaller (as defined by the manufacturer); the standard ENFit tip is used on all other syringe sizes. The low dose tip was developed to address clinicians' concerns about dosing accuracy when delivering small medication volumes. For syringe performance information on the low dose tip and other currently available products, see GEDSA's [ENFit Low Dose Tip presentation \(www.stayconnected.org\)](http://www.stayconnected.org).

MEDICATION PREPARATION: FILLING THE SYRINGE

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

Below are examples of the current tops of medication bottles. These will NOT work directly with the new ENFit syringes. This procedure will demonstrate three ways to fill the ENFit syringes (Bottle fill cap, medication straw, or medication cup).



Liquid medication bottle with open top



Liquid medication bottle with press-in oral syringe adapter

FILLING A SYRINGE USING A BOTTLE FILL CAP



Three examples of ENFit Compatible Bottle Fill Caps

Step 1. Make sure that the medication bottle has an ENFit compatible fill cap such as the ones shown above.

Step 2. With the ENFit fill cap attached, connect the ENFit syringe. Gently turn the medication bottle upside down. In a gentle but quick motion, pull and push back the syringe plunger to cycle it once or more (this helps to eliminate air bubbles). Then pull the plunger back to 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 cycle the syringe plunger back and forth a few times.



When complete, turn bottle right side up and remove syringe

FILLING THE SYRINGE WITH A MEDICATION STRAW

Step 1. When an ENFit bottle cap will not fit the medication bottle or it is impossible to remove the current bottle adapter, fill the syringe using a medication straw as seen in the picture below.

Example of a Medication Straw



Step 2. Connect the ENFit compatible end of the medication straw to the medication syringe, insert the straw into the medication bottle through the opening of the existing bottle adaptor or directly into the bottle mouth.

Step 3. Position the straw in the bottle and draw up the medication to the desired dose. When that is done, take the straw off the syringe and gently tap the straw to remove any medication that is on/in the straw.

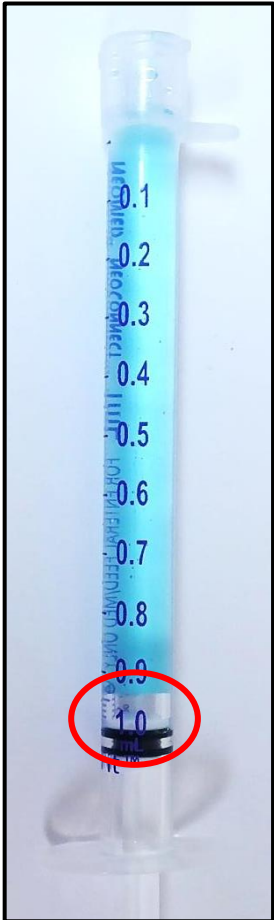


ENFit Syringe with Medication Straw in Liquid Medication Bottle

Step 4. When using the ENFit medication straw, make sure there are no air bubbles in the syringe. Air bubbles from the straw may fill the lower end of the syringe. Carefully tap or flick the syringe to remove the air bubble before removing from the medication straw or the syringe to remove air bubbles.



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



FILLING THE SYRINGE USING A MEDICATION CUP

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

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

Option B) Without an ENFit medication straw:

Step 1. Submerge the tip of the syringe into the medication cup after priming the syringe (pulling and pushing the plunger back and forth) and gently pull up on the syringe plunger to fill the syringe.



Step 1.

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



Step 2.

Step 3. When filling the ENFit low dose tip syringe, be cautious that the moat at the tip of the syringe may fill with additional medication.

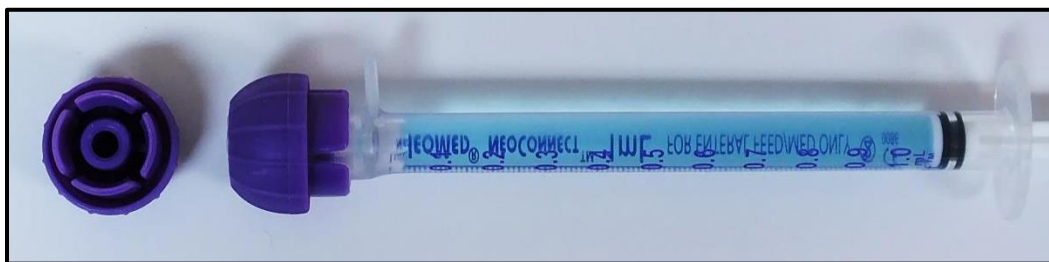


Tap the end of the syringe on a paper towel or end of the cup to dispel the extra fluid. For thicker fluids, use a sterile cloth to gently wipe the outside and around the tip of the syringe to remove extra fluid.*

*NOTE: Critical medications such as narcotics or cardiac medications that have a narrow therapeutic index MUST be free of medication in the moat of the low dose tip syringe.

FOR ALL FILLING METHODS

If the dose will not be administered immediately, place an ENFit compatible syringe cap on the syringe. Work with your pharmacy to acquire ENFit compatible syringe caps.



MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

Administration is easy with the ENFit system. Note that ENFit labeled enteral access devices will only connect with feeding or medication ports which are compatible with the ENFit medication syringe.)

Step 1. Verify correct patient using 2 forms of identification.

Step 2. Perform hand hygiene.

Step 3. Verify that the feeding tube or access device/extension set is ENFit compatible (a device with an ENFit port or a transition connector/extension set is in place).

Step 4. Verify that syringe moat is free of excess medication. If there is excess, flick the end of the syringe to remove.

Step 5. Attach an ENFit syringe with flush solution to the patient tube or extension set and administer the flush. Detach the syringe.

Step 6. Attach the ENFit **medication** syringe into the ENFit medication port or feeding tube port. Once secure, gently push the syringe plunger to transfer the medication into the enteral access site.

Step 7. After completely expelling the medication from the syringe, detach the syringe and flush the medication port according to instructions.

Oral Applications

When considering using an ENFit syringe for oral route medication administration, contact the syringe manufacturer for specific indications for use and instructions OR contact your organizational supply chain personnel.

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