

Medication Assistance Activity Sheet: Ear Medication

MAP Level 2 & 3: Medication Assistance Activity Sheet

This activity sheet guides unregulated health care providers when assisting with ear medication.

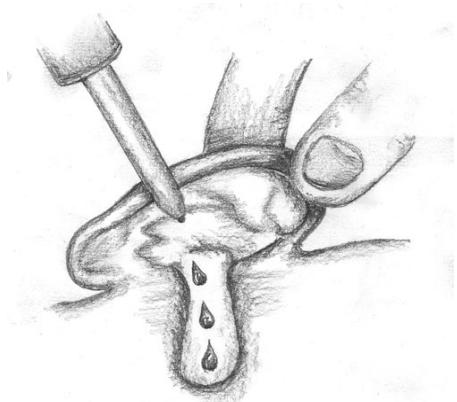

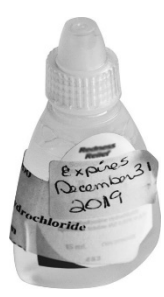
check	Activity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The First Medication Safety Check is done by the regulated health care provider who verifies the completeness and appropriateness of the prescriber's order (e.g., dispensing pharmacy or nurse)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduce yourself and review the client's care plan/medication record for instructions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform hand hygiene and gather the required supplies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ear (otic) medication • facial tissues • warm water or saline and gauze pads or face cloth for cleaning as directed on care plan • other items as per care plan: e.g., Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), gauze
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Second Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check for allergies and alerts on the medication label and care plan/medication record • check the expiry date and/or beyond use date of the medication • check & compare the medication rights* on the medication label and care plan/medication record • report any discrepancies or incorrect/unclear information to the supervisor immediately; do not proceed until concerns are resolved
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prepare the medication according to instructions on the care plan/medication record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • perform hand hygiene • check that the medication container is not cracked or leaking. Visually inspect the contents for particles or discoloration (when able) • verify the medication is labelled for otic (ear) use • prepare medication as directed in the care plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ warm medication container in the palm of hand ○ gently agitate/mix liquid medication before use by rolling between palms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Perform the Third Medication Safety Check : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the client using two (2) unique client identifiers • explain the activity to the client • check the medication rights* comparing the medication label and care plan/medication record
<p>* Medication rights: right client, right medication, right time, right dose, right route, right documentation, right of refusal. Unregulated health care providers are not required to know the "right reason" when providing medication assistance as directions on the care plan are followed.</p>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide MAP Level 2 or 3 assistance as per the care plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • don PPE as required • if directed on the care plan, clean the external ear before instilling medication • position the client for medication assistance (e.g., tilt head) • straighten the ear canal by pulling the pinna (top part of ear): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>adults and pediatric clients over age 3:</i> up and back ○ <i>pediatric clients under age 3:</i> down and back • avoid touching the tip of the container to the ear when instilling medication • instruct the client to remain with the ear tilted up for 5 to 10 minutes • use a facial tissue to remove excess solution; do not insert a cotton ball unless directed on care plan
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discard of used supplies and clean reusable equipment (if used) • perform hand hygiene • complete documentation • report observations as instructed on the care plan, or issues/concerns to the supervisor



Seniors Health & Continuing Care



Tips

Instilling ear drops	Using a bulb dropper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ear canal needs to be straightened to ensure the medication can be given properly This is done by gently pulling the pinna (top part of the ear): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults and pediatric clients over age 3: pull up and back Pediatric clients under age 3: pull down and back  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After the drops have been instilled, the client should remain with the ear turned upwards for 5 to 10 minutes Do not insert a cotton ball into the ear canal unless directed to do so; a cloth can be placed on the client's pillow to capture any leakage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loosen the cap before positioning the client Remove the dropper from the medication container and squeeze the bulb to get rid of the air Put the dropper back into the bottle and release the bulb to allow the medication to fill the dropper Remove the dropper and while holding the ear canal straight (as shown on the left), squeeze the bulb to instill the correct number of drops Do not insert the dropper into the ear 
	<h3>Using a squeeze bottle</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the cap and place it upside down on a clean surface before positioning the client Position the tip of the container over the opening of the ear While holding the ear canal straight (as instructed on the left), squeeze the bottle to instill the correct number of drops Do not insert the tip of the bottle into the ear 
<p>Place the date the medication is opened on the label and use by the “best before” date or expiry date</p>	

References:

- Alberta Health & Wellness (2013). *Health Care Aide Provincial Curriculum: Course 6-Module 1: Assisting with Medication Delivery*
- Eardrop instillation (2022 May 19). *Lippincott Procedures*: <https://procedures-lww-com.ahs.idm.oclc.org/lnp/home.do?setCookie=2948>
- Eardrop instillation, pediatric (2022, May 19). *Lippincott Procedures*: <https://procedures-lww-com.ahs.idm.oclc.org/lnp/home.do?setCookie=2948>

Note: When providing **MAP Level 1** (reminder), the unregulated health care provider does not handle or prepare medication for the client. Therefore, they do not perform the medication rights or perform safety checks.