

# DOSAGE CALCULATIONS A RATIO-PROPORTION APPROACH

#### FOURTH EDITION

# GLORIA D. PICKAR AMY PICKAR ABERNETHY

Equivalents			
Metric Equivalent	Household Equivalent	Approximate Equivalent	
$1 \mathbf{g} = 1,000 \text{ mg} = 1,000,000 \text{ mcg}$	3 t = 1 T	1 t = 5 mL	
0.001  g = 1  mg = 1,000  mcg	2 T = 1 fl oz	$1 \text{ T} = 3 \text{ t} = 15 \text{ mL} = \frac{1}{2} \text{ fl oz}$	
0.000001  g = 0.001  mg = 1  mcg	1  cup = 8  fl oz	$1 \text{ fl oz} = 30 \text{ mL} = 6 \text{ t}^2$	
1  kg = 1,000  g	1  pt = 16  fl oz = 2  cups	1 L = 1 qt = 32 fl oz = 2 pt = 4 cups	
1 L = 1,000 mL	1  qt = 2  pt = 4  cups = 32  fl oz	1  pt = 16  fl oz = 2  cups	
0.001 L = 1 mL	1  lb = 16  oz	1  cup = 8  fl oz = 240  mL	
$1 \mathbf{m} = 100 \text{ cm} = 1,000 \text{ mm}$		1  kg = 2.2  lb	
0.01  m = 1  cm = 10  mm		1  in = 2.5  cm	
0.001  m = 0.1  cm = 1  mm			

Common Calculations		
Dosage: Ra	atio-Proportion Method	Temperature Conversion
Step 1.	Convert	Celsius: $^{\circ}C = \frac{^{\circ}F - 32}{10}$ Eahrenheit: $^{\circ}F = 1.8^{\circ}C + 32$
Step 2.	Think Desage on hand Desage desired	
Step 3.	Calculate: $\frac{Dosage of hand}{Amount on hand} = \frac{Dosage desired}{X Amount desired}$	IV Flow Rate
Dosage: Fo	ormula Method	$\frac{\text{Total } \text{mL}}{\text{Total } \text{h}} = \text{mL/h}$
Step 1.	Convert	Total mL X mL/h
Step 2.	Think	$\frac{1}{\text{Total min}} = \frac{1}{60 \text{ min/h}}$
Step 3.	Calculate: $\frac{D}{H} \times Q = X$	$\frac{V(mL)}{T(min)} \times C(gtt/mL) = R(gtt/min)$
Dosage: Di	mensional Analysis Method	- ()
Step 1.	Determine unit of measure for <i>amount-to-give</i> ratio for left side of equation	Shortcut
Step 2.	Think	TV Flow Rate: $\frac{1}{\text{Drop factor constant}} = R (gt/min)$
Step 3.	Match unit of numerator of <i>supply-dosage ratio</i> with unit of numerator of <i>amount-to-give ratio</i> . Set up all other ratios so units cancel, leaving unit of amount to give. Calculate:	$\frac{\text{Body Surface Area}}{\text{Metric BSA: } m^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\text{ht (cm)} \times \text{wt (kg)}}{3,600}}$
	Amount- Supply- Conversion- Ordered- to-Give = Dosage $\times$ Factor $\times$ Dosage	Household BSA: $m^2 = \sqrt{\frac{\text{ht (in)} \times \text{wt (lb)}}{3,131}}$

Ratio

Ratio

Ratio

Ratio

Common Medical Abbreviations			
Abbreviation	Interpretation	Abbreviation	Interpretation
Route:		Frequency:	
IM	intramuscular	q.h	every hour
IV	intravenous	q.2h	every 2 hours
IV PB	intravenous piggyback	q.3h	every 3 hours
subcut	subcutaneous	q.4h	every 4 hours
SL	sublingual, under the tongue	q.6h	every 6 hours
ID	intradermal	q.8h	every 8 hours
GT	gastrostomy tube	q.12h	every 12 hours
NG	nasogastric tube	General:	
NJ	nasojejunal tube	ā	before
p.o.	by mouth, orally	$\overline{\mathbf{p}}$	after
p.r.	per rectum, rectally	$\frac{1}{\overline{C}}$	with
Frequency:	1	$\overline{\mathbf{S}}$	without
a.c.	before meals	q	every
p.c.	after meals	qs	quantity sufficient
ad. lib.	as desired, freely	aq	water
p.r.n.	when necessary	NPO	nothing by mouth
stat	immediately, at once	gtt	drop
b.i.d.	twice a day	tab	tablet
t.i.d.	3 times a day	cap	capsule
q.i.d.	4 times a day	et	and
min	minute	noct	night
h	hour		c

# DOSAGE CALCULATIONS

# A RATIO-PROPORTION APPROACH

## FOURTH EDITION

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# Preface

#### Introduction

Dosage Calculations: A Ratio-Proportion Approach, fourth edition, offers a clear and concise method of calculating drug dosages. The text is directed to students and professionals who want to increase their comfort level with mathematics and also to faculty members who prefer ratio and proportion for calculating dosages. Along with the companion text, *Dosage Calculations*, ninth edition, the content has been classroom tested and reviewed by well over 1 million faculty and students, who report that it has helped allay math anxiety and promote confidence in their ability to perform accurate calculations. As one reviewer noted, "I have looked at others [texts], and I don't feel they can compare."

The only math prerequisite is the ability to do basic arithmetic. For those who need a review, *Chapters 1* and 2 offer an overview of basic arithmetic calculations with extensive exercises for practice. The text teaches the learner to use a Three-Step Approach for calculating dosages.

- 1. Convert measurements to the same system and same size units.
- 2. Consider what dosage is reasonable.
- 3. Calculate using ratio and proportion.

Dosage Calculations: A Ratio-Proportion Approach, fourth edition, is based on feedback from users of the previous editions and users of other dosage calculations texts. The new edition also responds to changes in the health care field and includes the introduction of new drugs, replacement of outdated drugs, and discussion of new or refined methods of administering medications. The importance of avoiding medication errors is highlighted by the incorporation of applied critical thinking skills in clinical reasoning scenarios based on patient care situations, and a chapter on preventing medication errors. Clinical reasoning content has been expanded considering the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN: www.qsen.org) competencies that take into account the complexity of nursing work. Learners and faculty will find QSEN principles incorporated throughout: stacking, mindfulness, sensemaking, anticipating, memory aids, and work-arounds. To better prepare graduates for licensure examinations, test items patterned after NCLEX<sup>TM</sup>-RN and NCLEX<sup>TM</sup>-PN have been added for frequent practice.

#### **Organization of Content**

The text is organized in a natural progression of basic to more complex information. Learners gain selfconfidence as they master content in small increments with ample review and reinforcement. Many learners claim that while using this text, they did not fear math for the very first time.

The seventeen chapters are divided into four sections.

Section 1 starts with a Pretest patterned after examinations often used by hospitals and health care agencies to evaluate the readiness of new graduates to prepare and administer medications. Learners can both evaluate their level of knowledge as they begin their study of dosage calculations and test their learning with the same examination as a posttest. This is followed by a mathematics diagnostic evaluation and a thorough mathematics review in *Chapters 1* and 2. The Mathematics Diagnostic Evaluation allows learners to determine their computational strengths and weaknesses to guide them through the review of the Section 1 chapters. Chapters 1 and 2 provide a review of basic arithmetic skills, including fractions, decimals, ratios, percents, and simple equations, with numerous examples and practice problems to ensure that students can apply the procedures.

Section 2 includes Chapters 3 through 9. This section provides essential information that makes up the foundation for accurate dosage calculations and safe medication administration including medicine orders, labels, and equipment. Chapters 3 and 4 introduce the three systems of measurement: metric, household, and

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apothecary. The metric system of measurement is emphasized because of its standardization in the health care field and the household system is included because of its implications for care at home. Apothecary measure and conversions can be found in *Appendix B*, because the apothecary system is outdated and no longer recommended for use in health care. International or 24-hour time, and Fahrenheit and Celsius temperature conversions are presented in *Chapter 5*.

In *Chapter 6*, students learn to recognize and select appropriate equipment for the administration of medications based on the drug, dosage, and method of administration. Emphasis is placed on interpreting syringe calibrations to ensure that the dosage to be administered is accurate. All photos and drawings have been enhanced for improved clarity with updates from state-of-the-art technology and information systems.

*Chapter 7* presents the common abbreviations used in health care so that learners can become proficient in interpreting medical orders. The content on computerized medication administration records has been updated and expanded for this edition.

It is essential that learners be able to read medication labels to calculate dosages accurately. This skill is developed by having readers interpret the medication labels provided beginning in *Chapter 8*. These labels represent current commonly prescribed medications and are presented in full color and actual size (except in a few instances where the label is enlarged to improve readability). Some labels have been substituted with generic simulated labels to demonstrate critical calculations. This ensures that the entire range of medications seen in practice is presented, and gives the learners the experience with actual generic drugs. A full list of all labels in the text can be found in the *Drug Label Index*.

*Chapter 9* has been expanded and directs the learner's attention to the risks and responsibilities inherent in receiving medication prescriptions, transcribing orders, and administering medications. It provides the rationale for the patient's rights to safe medication administration and identifies the common causes of medication errors, including safe methods to prevent them. Throughout the text, care is taken to comply with standards and recommendations for medical notation available at the time of publication by The Joint Commission and The Institute for Safe Medication Practices. The Official "Do Not Use" List is emphasized. Learners are directed to stay abreast of these standards as they evolve to best ensure patient safety and prevent medication administration errors. More resources and tools for error prevention are presented, such as Tall Man letters to avoid mistaken identity of look-alike/sound-alike (LASA) drugs.

In *Section 3*, students learn and practice the skill of dosage calculations applied to patients across the life

span. The authors used QSEN quality and safety competencies as a guide for the development of realistic and challenging medication scenarios that simulate the complexity of various factors that challenge learners as they interpret, retrieve, prepare, calculate, and administer medications. These include obtaining pertinent drug information and making safe decisions for drug selection, preparation, dosage strength, equipment, and route for each patient. Various medication storage and retrieval systems are also demonstrated, such as unit-dose carts, automated dispensing cabinets (ADC) and ADC matrix drawers.

Safety competencies are incorporated to ensure learners carefully consider each aspect of the medication administration process for safe practice. Students learn to think through each problem logically for the right answer and then apply the ratio-proportion approach to double-check their thinking and verify their calculations. When this logical but unique system is applied every time to every problem, experience has shown that decreased math anxiety and increased accuracy result.

*Chapters 10* and *11* guide the learner to apply all the skills mastered in previous chapters to achieve accurate oral and injectable drug dosage calculations. High-alert drugs, such as insulin and heparin, are thoroughly presented. Insulin types, species, and manufacturers have been updated with a description of insulin action time and the addition of U-500 insulin, including the difference between administering U-500 in the hospital and at home. The 70/30 and 50/50 insulins and the insulin pen are also thoroughly explained.

**Chapter 12** introduces the concepts of solutions. Users learn the calculations associated with diluting solutions and reconstituting injectable drugs. This chapter provides a segue to intravenous calculations by fully describing the preparation of solutions. With the expanding role of the nurse and other health care workers in the home setting, clinical calculations for home care, such as nutritional feedings, are also emphasized.

*Chapter 13* covers the calculation of pediatric and adult dosages and concentrates on the body weight method. Emphasis is placed on verifying safe dosages and applying concepts across the life span.

*Chapter 14* introduces the formula and dimensional analysis methods of calculating dosages for faculty who may prefer these methods. Ample *Review Sets* and *Practice Problems* provide exposure to these methods, giving the learner an opportunity to sample other calculation methods and choose the one preferred.

Section 4 presents advanced clinical calculations applicable to both adults and children. Intravenous administration calculations are presented in *Chapters 15* through 17. Coverage reflects the greater application of IVs in drug therapy. Shortcut calculation methods are

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presented and explained fully. More electronic infusion devices are included. Heparin and saline locks, types of IV solutions, IV monitoring, IV administration records, and IV push drugs are included in *Chapter 15*. Pediatric IV calculations are presented in *Chapter 16*, and obstetric, heparin, insulin, and critical care IV calculations are covered in *Chapter 17*. Ample problems help students master the necessary calculations. Additional attention is directed to the clinical reasoning skills required to safely administer high-alert medications according to standard protocols, such as heparin and insulin.

Procedures in the text are introduced using Rule boxes and several *Examples*. Many examples use Clinical Simulations to guide learners through clinical reasoning and critical calculations. Examples and practice include finding and recording pertinent drug information from reputable drug resources. Key concepts are summarized and highlighted in Quick Review boxes before each set of Review Problems to give learners an opportunity to review major concepts prior to working through the problems. *Math Tips* provide memory joggers to assist learners in accurately solving problems. Learning is reinforced and evaluated by Practice Prob*lems* that conclude each chapter. The importance of calculation accuracy and patient safety is emphasized by patient scenarios that require careful and accurate consideration of every step of the medication administration process. Clinical Reasoning Skills scenarios allow learners to apply critical thinking to analyze and resolve medication administration errors at the end of each chapter beginning with Section 2. Additional scenarios accompany each chapter's Practice Problems to further emphasize accuracy and safety.

Information to be memorized is identified in *Remember* boxes, and *Caution* boxes alert learners to critical procedures and information.

Section Self-Evaluations found at the end of each section provide learners with an opportunity to test their mastery of chapter objectives prior to proceeding to the next section. Two **Posttests** at the conclusion of the text serve to evaluate the learner's overall skill in dosage calculations. The first **Posttest** refers the learner back to the new **Essential Skills Evaluation Pretest** from the beginning of the text, which covers essential skills commonly tested by employers. The second posttest, the **Comprehensive Skills Evaluation**, serves as a comprehensive examination covering all 17 chapters. Both are presented in a case study format to simulate actual clinical calculations.

An Answer Key at the back of the text provides all answers and solutions to selected problems in the Pretest, Review Sets, Practice Problems, Section Self-Evaluations, and Posttests. Appendix A: Study Guide is a new tool that provides essential abbreviations, equivalents, rules, and formulas from each clinical chapter, and *Appendix B: Apothecary System* describes apothecary conversions. Both a general content *Index* and a *Drug Label Index* conclude the text.

#### **Features of the Fourth Edition**

This text provides learners with the necessary knowledge and skills to accurately calculate dosages, safely prepare to administer medications, and carefully make decisions for error-free medication administration.

- Content is divided into four main sections to help learners better organize their studies.
- Measurable objectives at the beginning of each chapter emphasize the content to be mastered.
- More than 2,700 problems are included for learners to practice their skills and reinforce their learning, reflecting current drugs and protocols.
- Clinical Reasoning Skills scenarios apply critical thinking to real-life patient care situations to emphasize the importance of accurate dosage calculations and the avoidance of medication errors.
- Full color is used to make the text more user friendly, enhance presentation, and improve readability. Chapter elements, such as *Rules, Math Tips, Cautions, Remember* boxes, *Quick Reviews, Examples,* and *Summaries,* are color-coded for easy recognition and use. Color also highlights *Review Sets* and *Practice Problems*.
- Color has been added to selected syringe drawings throughout the text to *simulate a specific amount of medication*, as indicated in the example or problem. Because the color used may not correspond to the actual color of the medications named, *it must not be used as a reference for identifying medications*.
- Photos and drug labels are presented in full color. Special attention is given to visual clarity with some labels enlarged to ensure legibility.
- The *Math Review* brings learners up to the required level of basic math competence.
- SI conventional metric system notation is used (apothecary and household systems of measurement are introduced; apothecary measure can be found in *Appendix B*).
- *Rule* boxes draw the learner's attention to pertinent instructions.
- *Remember* boxes highlight information to be memorized.

- Quick Review boxes summarize critical information throughout the chapters before Review Sets are solved.
- *Caution* boxes alert learners to critical information.
- *Math Tips* serve to point out math shortcuts and reminders.
- Each new topic or skill presented is followed by *Review Sets* with end-of-chapter *Practice Problems* to assess understanding and skills and to reinforce learning.
- Many problems are included involving the interpretation of syringe scales to ensure that the proper dosage is administered. Once the dosage is calculated, the learner is directed to draw an arrow on a syringe at the proper value.
- Many more labels of current and commonly prescribed medications are presented, including a few simulated labels to help users learn how to select the proper information required to determine correct dosage. There are over 375 labels included.
- Hundreds of *Examples* are included to demonstrate the ratio-proportion, formula, or dimensional analysis methods of calculating dosages.
- The addition of the formula and dimensional analysis methods gives learners and instructors a choice of which method they prefer to use.
- Abbreviations, measurements, acronyms, and symbols follow The Joint Commission Official "Do Not Use" List and ISMP standards.
- Clear instructions are included for calculating IV medications administered in milligram per kilogram per minute.
- Clinical situations are simulated using actual medication labels, drug resource references, syringes, physician order forms, various medication storage and retrieval systems, and medication administration records.
- As requested by faculty and clinicians, the text has an enhanced emphasis on clinical decision making. While unit-dose preparations have eased calculation error rates, clinical complexity has increased them.
- The *Pretest, Section Evaluations, Chapter Practice Problems,* and *Posttests* include scenarios that simulate substantial aspects of real-world clinical calculation situations.
- An *Essential Skills Evaluation Pretest* and *Posttest* simulate exams commonly administered by

employers for new hires, assess prior knowledge, and evaluate learning of essential calculation skills. A *Comprehensive Skills Evaluation* evaluates the learner's overall comprehension in preparation for a level or program assessment.

- *Appendix A: Study Guide* summarizes the most frequently used abbreviations, equivalents, and formulas from each chapter. Learners can refer to this valuable study tool for solving problems that will reinforce learning essential information and calculations.
- The general *Index* facilitates learner and instructor access to content and skills, and the *Drug Index* facilitates access to all labels used in the text.

#### New to the Fourth Edition

For more than 30 years, this text and its companion, *Dosage Calculations*, ninth edition, have guided health care students to learn the knowledge and skills necessary for safe and accurate dosage calculations and medication administration. Regular and frequent updates keep the information current and state-of-the-art. Here is what's new to this edition.

- *Quality and Safety in Nursing Education* (QSEN) principles and competencies have been adapted to reduce the risk of medication errors and improve patient safety.
- *Clinical simulations* provided in examples and test questions in *Chapters 10* through *13* develop clinical reasoning and calculation skills, beginning with seeking drug information from reputable resources, through the logic and safety precautions in the drug dosage calculation and administration process.
- Section Examinations include test items formatted like graduate licensure examinations, such as the NCLEX-RN<sup>TM</sup> and NCLEX-PN<sup>TM</sup> exams.
- A new *Pretest* and *Posttest* assess prior learning and evaluate skills commonly tested for new-hire graduates.
- Content on *high-alert drugs*, such as heparin and insulin, has been extensively augmented, including safety concerns with the increased use of *insulin pens* in hospitals. *U-500 insulin* content and calculations have been expanded, including conversions for preparation using both U-100 and 1 mL syringes.
- Administration protocols are expanded to include both insulin and heparin.

- New questions are added throughout to reflect current drugs and protocols.
- Computerized order and medication administration record systems have been updated to demonstrate a variety of drug retrieval systems, including Automated Dispensing Cabinets (ADC).
- Photographs of state-of-the-art equipment are replaced and updated, including the latest medication storage and retrieval systems.
- Practice has been added for the clinical reasoning essential to making correct choices when using different drug storage and retrieval systems.
- Apothecary calculations have been deleted within the text and evaluation items, consistent with current standards. Apothecary measure has been moved to *Appendix B*.
- Learners apply critical thinking to prevent medication errors in *Clinical Reasoning Skills* scenarios based on QSEN principles.
- Dosage calculations scenarios have been expanded to incorporate each step of safe and error-free medication administration: interpretation of order, acquisition of drug information, retrieval of drug, dosage calculation, dose measurement, preparation, and administration.
- Learners are purposely directed to be mindful of the seriousness of their clinical practice and the value of *safety alerts* to prevent errors.
- Appendix A: Study Guide summarizes essential rules, formulas, abbreviations, and equivalents to facilitate problem solving and reinforce learning.
- *Appendix B: Apothecary System* gives common units, abbreviations, and symbols of the original dosage measurement system, for faculty and students interested in comparing and converting between apothecary and metric measure.
- An exciting new *Premium Website* with *Practice Software* is available, offering a glossary review, chapter tutorials, interactive exercises, and hundreds of practice problems.

#### Learning Package for the Student Premium Website (ISBN 978-1-2854-2954-0)

The *Premium Website* can be accessed by users of the text at **www.CengageBrain.com**. Enter your passcode, found in the front of the book, and the Premium Website will be added to your bookshelf. Here you can access the engaging *Practice Software*, which includes:

- A user-friendly menu structure to immediately access the program's items.
- A bank of several hundred questions for practice and to reinforce the content presented in the text.
- A tutorial for each chapter outlining instructions and approaches to safe and accurate dosage calculation.
- *Quizzes, Pretest,* and *Posttest* that operate within a tutorial mode, which allows two tries before the correct answer is provided.
- Interactive exercises that ask you to fill a medicine cup or draw back a syringe to the correctly calculated dose.
- A comprehensive glossary of terms and drug names with definitions and pronunciations.
- Drop-down calculator available at a click of a button, as used on the NCLEX-RN<sup>TM</sup> and -PN examinations.

#### **Teaching Package for the Instructor** (ISBN 978-1-2854-2955-7)

The Instructor Companion Website to Accompany Dosage Calculations: A Ratio-Proportion Approach, fourth edition, contains a variety of tools to help instructors successfully prepare lectures and teach within this subject area. The following components in the website are free to adopters of the text:

- A Solutions Manual includes answers and stepby-step solutions for every question in the *Pretest*, *Math Evaluation, Review Sets, Practice Problems, Section Evaluations*, and *Posttests* from the book.
- The **Computerized Test** Bank includes approximately 500 additional questions not found in the book for further assessment. The software also allows for the creation of test items and full tests, as well as coding for difficulty level.
- Lecture slides created in PowerPoint<sup>®</sup> offer a depiction of administration tools and include calculation tips helpful to classroom lecture of dosage calculations.

x



# Acknowledgments

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#### From the Authors

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> Gloria D. Pickar, RN, EdD Amy Pickar Abernethy, MD, PhD

## **Introduction to the Learner**

he accurate calculation of drug dosages is an essential skill in health care. Paracelsus (1493–1591), often referred to as the father of pharmacology, recognized that the difference between a poison, narcotic, hallucinogen, and medicine is dosage. Serious harm to the patient can result from inadequate knowledge, incorrect interpretation or transcription of a medication order, retrieving the wrong drug, or error during the calculation and subsequent administration of a drug dosage. It is the responsibility of those administering drugs to precisely and efficiently carry out medical orders and to recognize unsafe dosages, prescriptions, and practices.

Learning to calculate drug dosages need not be a difficult or burdensome process. *Dosage Calculations: A Ratio-Proportion Approach*, fourth edition, provides an uncomplicated, easy-to-learn, easy-to-recall Three-Step Approach to dosage calculations. Once you master this method, you will be able to consistently compute dosages with accuracy, ease, and confidence.

The text is a self-study guide that is divided into four main sections. The only mathematical prerequisite is the basic ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers. A review of fractions, decimals, percents, simple equations, ratios, and proportions is included. You are encouraged to work at your own pace and seek assistance from a qualified instructor as needed.

Each procedure in the text is introduced by several *Examples*. Key concepts are summarized and highlighted throughout each chapter, to give you an

opportunity to review the concepts before working the problems. Ample *Review* and *Practice Problems* are given to reinforce your skill and confidence.

Before calculating the dosage, you are asked to consider the reasonableness of the computation. More often than not, the correct amount can be estimated in your head. Many errors can be avoided if you approach dosage calculation in this logical fashion. The mathematical computation can then be used to doublecheck your thinking. Answers to all problems and stepby-step solutions to select problems are included at the back of the text.

Many photos and drawings are included to demonstrate key concepts and equipment. Drug labels and measuring devices (for example, syringes) are included to give a simulated "hands-on" experience outside of the clinical setting or laboratory. *Clinical Reasoning Skills* emphasize the importance of dosage calculation accuracy, and medication administration scenarios provide opportunities to analyze pertinent information, make sound clinical decisions, calculate accurately, and prevent errors.

This text has helped hundreds of thousands of learners just like you to feel at ease about math and to master dosage calculations. I am interested in your feedback. Please write to me to share your reactions and success stories.

Gloria D. Pickar, RN, EdD gpickar@cfl.rr.com

*Dedicated to Julie, in recognition of the importance of preventing errors.* 



# **Using This Book**

 Content is presented from simple to complex, in small increments, followed by solved *Examples* and a *Quick Review. Review Sets* and *Practice Problems* provide opportunities for you to reinforce your learning.

• Measurable objectives at the beginning of each chapter define learning outcomes.



Describe the three concentrations, and calculate the amount to give for each of the supply dosage concentrations.

Reconstitute with \_\_\_\_\_ mL diluent for a concentration of \_\_\_\_\_ units/mL

Give: \_\_\_\_\_ mL

Reconstitute with \_\_\_\_\_ mL diluent for a concentration of \_\_\_\_\_ units/mL.

Give: \_\_\_\_\_ mL

Reconstitute with \_\_\_\_\_\_ mL diluent for a concentration of \_\_\_\_\_\_ units/mL.
Give: \_\_\_\_\_\_ mL

Indicate the concentration you would choose, and explain the rationale for your selection.
Select \_\_\_\_\_\_ units/mL and give \_\_\_\_\_ mL. Rationale: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Upon mastery of Chapter 11, you will be able to apply clinical reasoning skills to prepare safe and accurate parenteral dosages of drugs. To accomplish this, you will also be able to:

- Gather current information about the drug.
- Retrieve the right drug in the correct supply dosage strength.
- Apply the Three-Step Approach to dosage calculation: convert, think, and calculate using ratio-proportion.
- Verify drug and dosage with a second nurse for high-alert medications and for wasting of controlled substances.
- Measure correct dose amounts.
- Collaborate with patients and families regarding their medications, including safe administration at home.



• Syringes are drawn to full size, providing accurate scale renderings to help you master the reading of injectable dosages.



• **Drug labels** and photos are presented in full color; actual size labels help prepare you to read and interpret content in its true-life format.

MATH TIP

Notice that to multiply 2 by 1,000, you are moving the decimal three places to the right. This is a shortcut. Sometimes to complete this operation, you add zeros to hold the places equal to the number of zeros in the equivalent. In this case, 1 g = 1,000 mg, so you add three zeros:  $2 \times 1,000 = 2,000 = 2,000$ 

#### CAUTION

If any of the seven parts is missing or unclear, the order is considered incomplete and is therefore not a legal drug order.



#### RULE

In a proportion, the ratio for a known equivalent equals the ratio for an unknown equivalent. To use ratio-proportion to convert from one unit to another, you need to follow these three steps.

- 1. Recall the equivalents.
- 2. Set up a proportion of two equivalent ratios.
- 3. Cross-multiply to solve for an unknown quantity, X.



#### REMEMBER

The Six Rights of safe and accurate medication administration are as follows: The right patient must receive the right drug in the right amount by the right route at the right time, followed by the right documentation.

$\odot$	QUICK REVIEW Look again at Steps 1 through 3 as a valuable dosage calculation checklist.			
Y	Step 1	Convert	Be sure that all measurements are in the same system and all units are the same size.	
	Step 2	Think	Carefully estimate the reasonable amount of the drug that you should administer.	
	Step 3	Calculate	Dosage on hand Amount on hand = Dosage desired X Amount desired	

#### SUMMARY

At this point, you should be quite familiar with the equivalents for converting within the metric and household systems and from one system to another. From memory, you should be able to recall quickly and accurately the equivalents for conversions. If you are having difficulty understanding the concept of converting from one unit of measurement to another, review this chapter and seek additional help from your instructor.

Consider the two Clinical Reasoning Skills scenarios, and work the Practice Problems for Chapter 4. Concentrate on accuracy. One error can be a serious mistake when calculating the dosages of medicines or performing critical measurements of health status.

EXAMPLE 4	
Convert: 0.15 kg to g	
Equivalent: 1 kg = 1,000 g	
$\frac{1 \text{ kg}}{1,000 \text{ g}} = \frac{0.15 \text{ kg}}{\text{X g}}$	
$\frac{1 \text{ kg}}{1,000 \text{ g}} >>> \frac{0.15 \text{ kg}}{\text{X g}}$	Cross-multiply
$X = 1,000 \times 0.15$	0.150. Move the decimal 3 places to the right to multiply by 1,000. Add a zero to complete the operation.
X = 150 g	Label the units to match the unknown X.

- *Math Tip* boxes provide you with clues to essential computations.
- *Caution* boxes alert you to critical information and safety concerns.
- *Rule* boxes highlight and draw your attention to important formulas and pertinent instructions.
- *Remember* boxes highlight information that you should memorize.
- Quick Review boxes summarize critical information that you will need to know and understand to safely prepare and administer medications.
- *Summary* boxes draw out key information from the chapter as a self-check and review tool.
- *Examples* walk you step-by-step through each calculation process, using different conversions, medications, and methods, to ensure that your mastery of the process is complete.

 Problems illustrate questions that students will encounter in actual lab and clinical situations.

#### 

- Sterile wate for injection 3 mL 3 mL -- 3<sup>wr</sup> ≥z¢ 0 0 2 mL 2 mL 81 -1 mL 1 mL Ē1 Withdraw 1 mL cefazolin solution 1 mL 1 mL ı-I -51€ 1% n for the ordered dosage of 225 mg 2 mL 2 mL 6 0 F ± 2¢ 2 3 mL £3. h 3 mL +=Sterile wate for injection Inject 2 mL air into sterile water diluent Add 2 ml Make Withdraw 2 mL sterile water sterile water to cefazolin 500 mg in 2.2 mL cefazolin 500 mg powde vial and shake well reconstituted solution for cefazolin 225 mg/mL
- Clinical Reasoning Skills apply critical thinking to real-life patient care situations emphasizing the importance of accurate dosage calculations and the avoidance of medication errors. As an added benefit, clinical reasoning scenarios present prevention strategies so that you can learn how to avoid these errors in practice.

*Illustrations* simulate critical dosage calculation and dose preparation skills.

Medication errors can be caused by setting up problems incorrectly. Let's look at an example to identify the CLINICAL REASONING SKILLS nurse's error ERROR Incorrectly using the ratio-proportion method of dosage calculation Possible Scenario Suppose the physician ordered Kaflex 80 mg p.o. q.i.d. for a child with an upper respiratory infection, and the Keflex is supplied in an oral suspension with 250 mg per 5 mL. The nurse decided to calculate the dosage using the ratio-proportion method and set up the problem this way:  $\frac{80 \text{ mg}}{5 \text{ ml}} > \frac{250 \text{ mg}}{2 \text{ ml}}$ 80X = 1,250  $\frac{80X}{80} = \frac{1,250}{80}$ X = 15.6 mL INCORRECT The nurse gave the child 15 mL of Keflex for 2 doses. The next day, as the nurse prepared the medication in the medication room, another nurse observed the nurse pouring 15 mL into a medicine cup and asked about the dosage. At that point, the nurse preparing the medication realized the error. Potential Outcome The child could develop complications from the overdosage of Kellex, such as renal impairme and liver damage. When the physician was notified of the error, the physician would likely on the medication discontinued and the child's blood urea nitrogen (BUN) and liver enzymes ma An incident report would be filed and the family would be notified of the error. Prevention This type of calculation error occurred because the nurse set up the ratio-proportion problem incorrectly. The dosage on hand and amount on hand were not both set up on the left (or same) side of the proportion. The problem should have been calculated this way:  $\frac{250 \text{ mg}}{5 \text{ mL}} > \frac{80 \text{ mg}}{X \text{ mL}}$ 250X = 400  $\frac{250X}{250} = \frac{400}{250}$ X = 1.6 mL CORRECT k = 1.6 mt CORECT In addition, had the nurse used Step 2: Think of the Three-Step Approach, the nurse would have estimated that the dose required was less than 5 nd, not more. You should think first, and then calculate, In calculating ratio-proportion problems, remember to keep the weight of the medication and the amount of the known together on the left side of the proportion, and the weight and the amount of the known together on the left side of the proportion, and the weight had the amount of the known together on the left side of the proportion, and the weight had the amount of the known together on the left side of the proportion and the have received almost 10 times the amount of medication ordered by the physician each time the nurse committed the error Vou can use ratio-proportion to determine how many mg of Kelfex the Child received in the scenario.  $\frac{250 \text{ mg}}{5 \text{ ml}} > \frac{X \text{ mg}}{15 \text{ ml}}$ 5X = 3,750 X = 750 mg, not 80 mg as ordered Obviously, the nurse did not think through for the reasonable amount and either miscalculated the dosage three times or did not bother to calculate the dosage again, preventing identification of the error.

Review Set 13				
Convert each of the fo	bllowing to the equivalent unit	indicated.		
1. 500 mL =	L	16. 0.75 L =	mL	
2. 0.015 g =	mg	17. 5,000 mL =	L	
3. 8 mg =	g	18. 1 L =	mL	
4. 10 mg =	g	19. 1 g =	mg	
5. 60 mg =	g	20. 3,000 mL =	L	
6. 300 mg =	g	21. 23 mcg =	mg	
7. 0.2 g =	mg	22. 1.05 g =	kg	
8. 1.2 g =	mg	23. 18 mcg =	mg	
9. 0.0025 kg =	g	24. 0.4 mg =	mcg	
10. 0.065 g =	mg	25. 2,625 g =	kg	
11. 0.005 L =	mL	26. 50 cm =	m	
12. 1.5 L =	mL	27. 10 L =	mL	
13. 100 mcg =	mg	28. 450 mL =	L	
14. 250 mL =	L	29. 5 mL =	L	
15. 2 kg =	g	30. 30 mg =	mcg	
After completing these problems, see page 642 to check your answers.				

Practice Problems round out each chapter. This is your opportunity to put your skills to the test, to identify your areas of strength, and also to acknowledge those areas in which you need additional study.

Review Sets are inserted after each new topic, to encourage you to stop and check your understanding of the material just presented.

#### PRACTICE PROBLEMS—CHAPTER 11

Calculate the amount you will prepare for 1 dose. Indicate the syringe you will select to measure the medication.

Select:

\_ syringe

1. Order: hydromorphone (Dilaudid) 4 mg slow IV push (over 10 min) q.4h p.r.n., severe pain Supply: hydromorphone 10 mg/mL

 Give:
 mL
 Select:
 syringe

 2. Order:
 morphine sulfate 15 mg slow IV push (over 5 min) stat

Supply: morphine sulfate 10 mg/mL Give: \_\_\_\_\_\_ mL

 Essential Skills Pretest, Section Self-Evaluations, Posttest, and Comprehensive Skills Evaluation test your mastery of concepts and critical calculation skills.

Mr. Smith is on restricted fluids. His IV order is: NS 1,500 mL IV q.24h ā 300,000 units penicillin G potassium IV PB in 100 mL NS q.4h over 30 min. The infusion set is calibrated at 60 gtt/mL. 38. Set Mr. Smith's regular IV at \_\_\_\_\_\_ gtt/min.

39. Set Mr. Smith's IV PB at \_\_\_\_\_\_ gtt/min.

Later during your shift, an electronic infusion pump becomes available. You decide to use it to regulate

Mr. Smith's IVs.

- 40. Regulate Mr. Smith's regular IV at \_\_\_\_\_ mL/h
- 41. Regulate Mr. Smith's IV PB at \_\_\_\_\_ mL/h.
- Clinical Simulations provide opportunities to practice your clinical reasoning combined with dosage calculation skills for safe and accurate medication administration.



NCLEX-RN<sup>TM</sup> and NCLEX-PN<sup>TM</sup> alternate test items give you an opportunity to practice answering questions formatted like these licensure examinations.

#### 54. NCLEX Drag-and-Drop / Ordered-Response Item

Copy the tasks from the box onto the list in the proper sequence to *administer high-alert intravenous heparin by a standard weight-based protocol.* 

Check aPTT test results. Start continuous infusion, if required. Record weight in kilograms. Administer bolus, if required. Adjust infusion rate, if required. Check aPTT test results. Administer rebolus, if required.		Answer:
	Check aPTT test results. Start continuous infusion, if required. Record weight in kilograms. Administer bolus, if required. Adjust infusion rate, if required. Check aPTT test results. Administer rebolus, if required.	

• Appendix A: Study Guide summarizes equivalents,

abbreviations, terms, and calculation methods.

#### **Dosage Calculations: Ratio-Proportion Method**

 $\frac{\text{Dosage on hand}}{\text{Amount on hand}} = \frac{\text{Dosage desired}}{\text{X Amount desired}}$ 

• *Appendix B: Apothecary System* describes the common units, symbols, and equivalent conversions of this measurement system.

Apothecary-Metric Approximate Equivalents			
Volume		Weight	
$\mathbf{oz}  \mathbf{mL} \\ 1 = 30$	$ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{min}  \mathbf{mL} \\ 45 = 3 \end{array} $	$\frac{\mathbf{gr}  \mathbf{mg}}{15 = 1,000}$	$\frac{\mathbf{gr}}{\frac{1}{4}} = 15$
$\frac{1}{2} = 15$	30 = 2	10 = 600	$\frac{1}{6} = 10$
	15 = 1	$7\frac{1}{2} = 500$	$\frac{1}{8} = 7.5$
dr mL	12 = 0.75	5 = 300	$\frac{1}{10} = 6$
$2\frac{1}{2} = 10$	10 = 0.6	4 = 250	$\frac{1}{15} = 4$
2 = 8	8 = 0.5	3 = 200	$\frac{1}{20} = 3$
$1\frac{1}{4} = 5$	5 = 0.3	$2\frac{1}{2} = 150$	$\frac{1}{30} = 2$
1 = 5	4 = 0.25	2 = 120	$\frac{1}{40} = 1.5$
	3 = 0.2	$1\frac{1}{2} = 100$	$\frac{1}{60} = 1$
1  minim = 1  gtt	$1\frac{1}{2} = 0.1$	1 = 60	$\frac{1}{100} = 0.6$
	1 = 0.06	$\frac{3}{4} = 45$	$\frac{1}{120} = 0.5$
	$\frac{3}{4} = 0.05$	$\frac{1}{2} = 30$	$\frac{1}{150} = 0.4$
	$\frac{1}{2} = 0.03$	$\frac{1}{2} = 20$	$\frac{1}{200} = 0.3$
			$\frac{1}{250} = 0.25$

 Drug Label Index identifies each label in the text as a quick reference.



Online Practice Software is offered as your built-in learning tutor. As you study each chapter, be sure to also work with the online study tool. This valuable resource will help you verify your understanding of key rules and calculations.



# **Pretest and Mathematics Review**

Essential Skills Evaluation: Pretest
Essential Skills Evaluation: Pretest Answer Sheet
Mathematics Diagnostic Evaluation

Fractions and Decimals
Ratios, Percents, Simple Equations, and Ratio-Proportion



# **Essential Skills Evaluation: Pretest**

ecord your answers on the Essential Skills Evaluation: Pretest Answer Sheet on page 21. Do not record your answers on the test itself. You will refer back to this Essential Skills Evaluation as an essential skills posttest when you conclude your studies.

As you begin the study of safe dosage calculation, consider that you bring previous knowledge from life experiences. Perhaps you have worked or volunteered in a health care setting or administered medication to a family member or friend. This essential skills pretest will help you identify dosage calculation skills you already possess and highlight skills that you will learn and master as you work through the text. Take this pretest now, but do not be concerned if there are many questions you are unable to answer. That is to be expected. Use scrap paper to work the problems rather than writing on the test pages so that you can take this test again once you have completed this course of study. Separate answer sheets are provided following the pretest and again following Section 4 (as a posttest) for you to record your answers. Comparing your answers from the pretest with those of the posttest will allow you to measure your improvement and see what material you may need to revisit with your instructor.

The Essential Skills Evaluation is designed to be similar to the type of entry-level test given by hospitals and health care agencies during orientation for new graduates and new employees. It excludes the advanced calculation skills presented in Chapters 16 and 17. A more comprehensive skills evaluation will be available at the end of the text, to measure mastery of the full range of dosage calculation skills presented in all 17 chapters of the text.

Locate the Essential Skills Evaluation: Pretest Answer Sheet, gather some scratch paper, and let's get started!

#### **Instructions for questions 1 through 19:**

Throughout your assigned shift on a busy adult medical unit, you will give medications to a group of patients. The following labels represent the medications available on the medical unit to fill the orders given. Calculate the amount you will administer for one dose, and identify the frequency of administration of each dose. For solutions, mark an arrow on the syringe to indicate the correct volume. When multiple syringes are provided, choose the most appropriate one to mark.

#### Section 1 Pretest and Mathematics Review

1. Order: verapamil 40 mg p.o. t.i.d.

4

Give: \_\_\_\_\_ tablet(s) Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_



2. Order: clonazepam 1.5 mg p.o. b.i.d.

Give: \_\_\_\_\_\_ tablet(s) Frequency: NDC 0555-0096-96 **CLONAZEPAM ORALLY DISINTEGRATING** Tablets USP 0.5 mg Each tablet contains 0.5 mg clonazepam, USP. Phenylketonurics: Contains phenylalanine 2.4 mg per tablet. Pharmacist: Dispense the enclosed Medication Guide to each patient. Dispense one "Instruction to the Patient Sheet" with each prescription. USA. permission from Teva Pharmaceuticals R only 60 TABLETS (10 blister cards of 6 tablets each) with | lsed

3. Order: atomoxetine 20 mg p.o. daily



4. Order: Lortab 2.5 mg p.o. q.3h, p.r.n., moderate pain (ordered according to dose of hydrocodone)

Give: \_\_\_\_\_\_ tablet(s) b Pharma Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ from UCB Pharma, Inc. PHARMACIST: Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container with a child-NDC 50474-902-01 100 TABLETS USUAL DOSAGE: See package inser LORTAB<sup>®</sup> 5/500 tore at controlled room temperature 5"-30"C (59"-85"F). HYDROCODONE BITARTRATE AND ACETAMINOPHEN TABLETS, USP 5 mg/500 mg with permission Lot No. Exp. De ato ..... 50474-902-01 Rev. 6/01 P/N 1003723 Ronly Used

5. Order: levothyroxine 0.3 mg p.o. q.AM



6. Order: amoxicillin and clavulanate potassium 100 mg p.o. q.8h (ordered according to dose of amoxicillin)



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- 7. Order: promethazine 12.5 mg IV q.4h p.r.n., nausea Give: \_\_\_\_\_ mL (Use label A.) Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_ 0.1 <u>ю 4 6 9 7 8 0</u> 2 T Copyright © 2016 Cengage Learning®. NDC 0703-2191-04 Rx only Each mL contains: Promethazine hydrochloride 25 mg, edetate disodium 0.1 mg, calcium chloride 0.04 mg, sodium metabisulfite 0.25 mg and phenol 5 mg in water for injection, Promethazine pH 4.0-5.5; buffered with acetic acid-sodium acetate. Sealed under nitrogen. Usual Dosage: See Package Insert. Hydrochloride PROTECT FROM LIGHT: Keep covered in Injection, USP carton until time of use. Teva Store at room temperature from . 25 mg/mL 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature]. permission FOR DEEP INTRAMUSCULAR USA **OR INTRAVENOUS USE** Teva Pharmaceuticals USA 1 mL Single Dose Vials Sellersville, PA 18960 Y10765 Jsed with 25 Vials Rev. A 11/2011 TEVA A Rx only NDC 0703-2201-04 Each mL contains: Promethazine hydrochloride 50 mg, edetate disodium 0.1 mg, calcium chloride 0.04 mg, sodium metabisulfite 0.25 mg and phenol 5 mg in water for injection. Promethazine pH 4.0-5.5; buffered with acetic acid-sodium acetate. Sealed under nitrogen. Usual Dosage: See Package Insert. **Hydrochloride** PROTECT FROM LIGHT: Keep covered in Injection, USP carton until time of use. Teva Store at room temperature from . 50 mg/mL 20°-25°C (68°-77°F) [See USP permission f uticals USA. Controlled Room Temperature]. FOR DEEP INTRAMUSCULAR **USE ONLY** aceuticals Teva Pharmaceuticals USA 1 mL Single Dose Vials Sellersville, PA 18960 Y10766 with 25 Vials Rev. A 11/2011 Jsed
  - В
- 8. Order: promethazine 40 mg IM stat

Give: \_\_\_\_\_ mL (Use label B.)

Frequency: \_\_\_\_\_



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