

Skills Practice Tools: Matching the *Five Rights*



Giving medication is a very serious part of your job. Knowing the *Five Rights* is not enough. To give medication, you must match the medication, time, dose, route and child's first and last names written on the medication to the medication, time, dose, route and child's first and last names written on the consent form to be sure you're giving the medication correctly. This is called matching the *Five Rights*.

Remember the following when matching the *Five Rights* to give medication:

Right Medication

- Make sure the medication listed on the label of the container exactly matches the *Written Medication Consent Form*. Be careful, because the names of medication can sound alike and be spelled alike, but be very different medication.
- Some medication, such as inhalers, EpiPens® and creams, are inside a box with a pharmacy label on it. Always take the medication container out of the labeled box and match the medication name on the container with the label, including the strength.



Right Time

- Match the time written on the *Written Medication Consent Form* with the time written on the pharmacy label and package with the current time. Remember that if the health care provider did not write the hour to give it (e.g., 12:00 PM), check the back of the consent form to see what time the parent wrote for you to give it.
- If the medication is given when the child needs it instead of at a specific hour, match the information written on the consent form and make sure it matches the child's symptoms. For example, if the instructions say to give Tylenol® when the child has a fever of 101°F or above, you would know it's the right time to give it if the child has a fever of 102°F.

Right Dose

- Match the dose written on the consent form with the dose written on the pharmacy label or package with the dose you have prepared to give.

Right Route

- Match the route written on the consent form with the route written on the pharmacy label or package with the way you are about to give the medication to the child.

Right Child

- Match the child's first and last names written on the consent form with the names written on the pharmacy label or package to the child you are about to give the medication to.