

How to read an oral syringe

Oral medicine is given in the mouth. To give liquid medicine in your child's mouth, it is best to use an oral syringe to measure the right dose. There are many sizes of syringes, so it is important to use the correct one. A small dose of medicine can be hard to measure. Use the smallest syringe you can to get exactly the right dose.

Spoons are not all the same size. **Do not use** a spoon to measure your child's medicine.

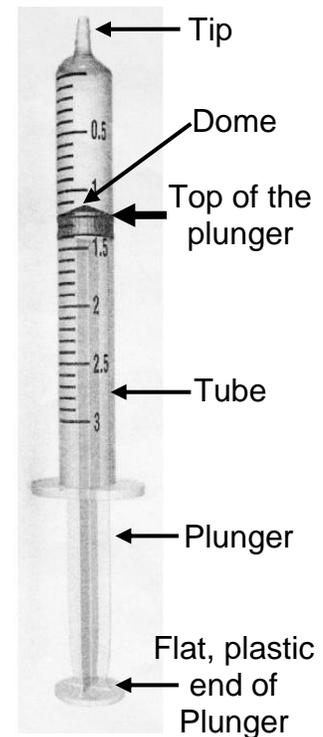
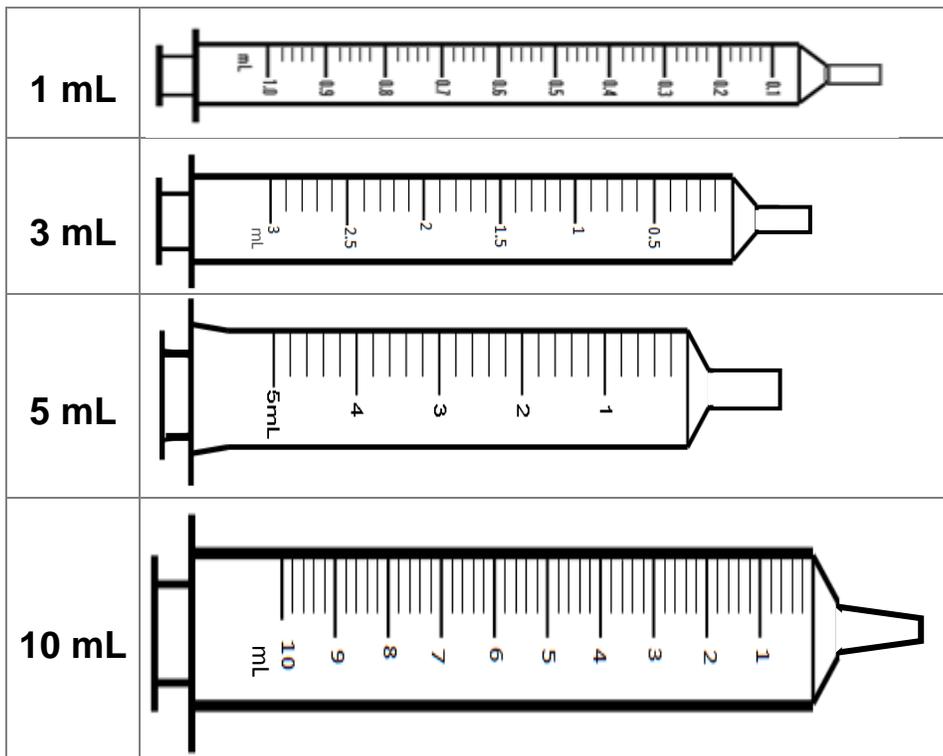
A dose of liquid medicine is measured in milliliters, or "mL" for short. Ask your pharmacist to show you how to measure the right amount of each medicine in the right syringe. Check with the pharmacist each time you get medicine because the concentration or dose may have changed.

Ask the pharmacist for the correct syringe for the medicine and to draw a line on the syringe to show where to measure.

There are 2 parts to a syringe:

1. The outer part is a tube that has lines to measure the correct amount of medicine.
2. The inner part is the plunger. The top straight edge of the plunger is used to measure the correct dose of medicine. Do not measure at the dome.

Here are examples of oral syringes. It is important to look at the numbers on the side to see what size it is. The syringe from your pharmacy may look different.



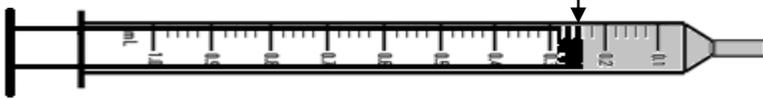
Here are some examples:

On a **1 mL syringe**, the longer lines are marked with numbers for each 0.1 mL.

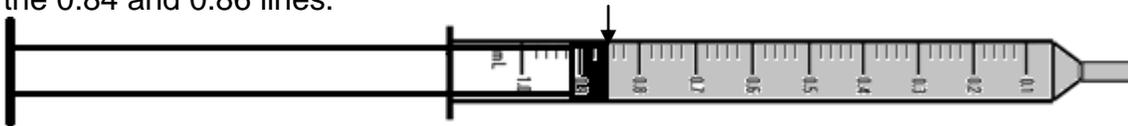
The short lines measure 0.02 mL. (0.02, 0.04, 0.06, 0.08)

Example: 0.24 mL: Fill a 1 mL syringe with medicine until the top of the plunger is at the 0.24 line.

See each arrow on each syringe for where to draw the medicine.



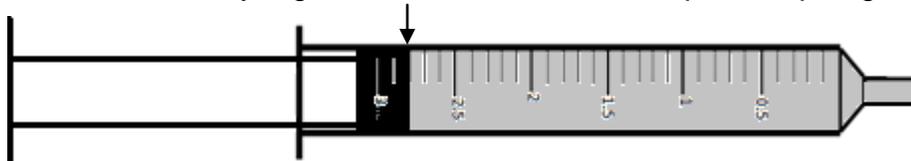
Example: 0.85 mL: There is no 0.85 line. Fill a 1 mL syringe until the top of the plunger is between the 0.84 and 0.86 lines.



On a **3 mL syringe**, the longer lines are marked with numbers for each 0.5 and 1 mL.

The short lines measure 0.1 mL. (0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, **0.5**, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9)

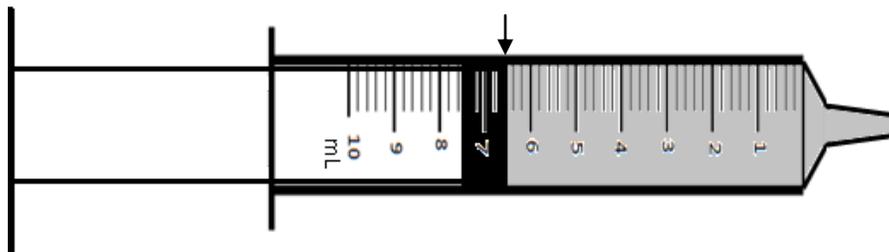
Example: 2.8 mL: Fill a 3 mL syringe with medicine until the top of the plunger is at 2.8.



On **5, 10 and 12 mL syringes**, the longer lines are marked for each 1 mL.

The short lines measure 0.2 mL. (0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8)

Example: 6.5 mL: There is no 6.5 line. Fill a 10 mL syringe until the top of the plunger is between the 6.4 and 6.6 lines.

**Important safety tips:**

- Keep all medicines in a locked place where children cannot get them.
- An open bottle of medicine is dangerous. Keep it covered. This will protect the medicine from getting spilled and keep it safe from others.
- If the syringe came with a cap, throw it in the trash. Your child could choke on it.
- Check each time that you have the correct syringe for the correct medicine.

ALERT: Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any concerns or if your child has special health care needs not covered by this information.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.