

The nine rights

- ✓ 1. Right medication
- ✓ 2. Right dose
- ✓ 3. Right route
- ✓ 4. Right time
- ✓ 5. Right patient
- ✓ 6. Right education
- ✓ 7. Right to refuse
- ✓ 8. Right technique
- ✓ 9. Right documentation

Check the label against the order three times: taking it from storage, before preparing, before returning it, with an activity between each check.

Other routes

- ✓ **Rectal:** gloved index finger, 3—4 inches in adults and older children; gloved **little finger, 2 inches** in small children
- ✓ **Vaginal:** 3—4 inches; the patient stays lying down afterwards
- ✓ **Topical aerosol:** hold 3—6 inches from the skin
- ✓ **Do not crush** slow-release, extended-release or enteric-coated tablets
- ✓ **Ear irrigation is contraindicated** when the object will swell: a bean, pea or corn kernel

Syringes, needles and preparation

Syringe	Each line	Read to
1 mL tuberculin	0.01 mL	Hundredths
3 mL (most common)	0.1 mL	Tenths
5—12 mL	0.2 mL	Even numbers
Insulin	1 unit	Whole units (U-100)

- ✓ **Higher gauge number = smaller lumen** and a thinner wall; higher gauges bend more easily
- ✓ **Never recap a used needle.** The one-handed scoop is for unused needles only
- ✓ **Multidose vial:** 28 days after opening, or the manufacturer's date if sooner. **Single-dose vial:** discard after the procedure
- ✓ **Ampule:** draw through a filter needle to catch glass, then **remove it before injecting**
- ✓ **Mixing insulin:** draw up regular (clear) first, then NPH (cloudy). Roll cloudy insulin; do not roll clear
- ✓ **Inject at 10 seconds per mL.** Wait 15 minutes afterwards for anaphylaxis; epinephrine is first-line
- ✓ **If you hit bone,** withdraw about ¼ inch and give the medication
- ✓ **EMLA cream** works in 30—40 minutes; refrigerant spray works immediately