11 tips for dosing liquid medications

For over-the-counter drugs:

- Use the dispenser included with the medicine itself or ask the pharmacy to recommend one.
- Do not use household utensils to measure such as glasses, spoons, containers... as they can lead to errors.
- If the medicine is for a child, administer it based on their weight, not their age, as indicated on the instructions on the product label.
- When measuring the medicine, measure it on a flat surface looking at it at eye level and in a well-lit room.



For prescription drugs:

- Listen carefully to instructions from the healthcare professional and take a good look at the dosing instructions indicated in the prescription.
- Make sure that there is no contradiction between what the label indicates and what the prescription says, and ask if you have any doubts.
- Some medicines will need refrigeration: check the instructions on how to store them.



General tips:

- Store the medicine and the measuring tool together. After dosing the medicine, cap it immediately.
- Clean the dosing tool after each use and dry it well to avoid the growth of microorganisms.
- Do not combine the dosing tool with more than one medicine or with food or drinks unless the labelling specifies it.
- Always store liquid medications for adults and children in separate areas.



Reference:

Tips For Measuring Liquid Medicines Safely. ConsumerMedSafety (2012). Available at: https://consumermedsafety.org/tools-and-resources/medication-safety-tools-and-resources/taking-your-medicine-safely/measure-liquid-medications