

Administration of Ear Medication

Ear Drops and Ointment

Purpose: To provide medication to treat ear disorders.

Materials:

1. Medication.
2. Medicine dropper (usually is included with the prescription bottle).
3. Cotton ball.

Procedure:

1. **Wash hands** before and after administering. If signs of infection, put on gloves to administer medication.
2. Confirm medication order.
3. Identify resident.
4. If medicine is not at body temperature as it comes from bottle, it may be warmed by holding or gently rolling container it in your hands for a few minutes. Avoid heating above body temperature to prevent loss of potency.
5. Explain procedure and position resident lying down with head turned to side.
6. Clean and dry ear canal if necessary with cotton balls or wash cloth.
7. Gently pull ear to straighten canal - upward and backward.
8. Instill medication into ear without touching dropper to ear canal. Steady hand by resting it against resident's head. Drop ointment or liquid onto the wall of ear canal, don't "bull's eye" the opening or it may form a bubble or seal and not coat the canal properly.
9. Wipe up any spills around ear.
10. Have resident remain in the side lying position for at least five minutes or more so that medication can be absorbed.
11. May put cotton ball at ear canal opening to prevent excess medication from leaking onto clothing.
12. Record according to procedure.