

Procedure for Inpatient Settings: Preparing and Administering Medications Using ENFit®



Purpose: Outline the preparation and administration of medication doses using the ENFit system. This procedure will be applicable to patients of all age groups in inpatient settings.

Background: The ENFit® system is the new ISO standard for enteral connectors. It promotes patient safety by reducing the risk of misconnection between unrelated systems by implementing a unique mechanical design. The syringes are available in 2 tip versions: low dose and standard dose.

The standard ENFit tip is used on most syringe sizes. The low dose tip (available in smaller sizes as defined by the manufacturer) was developed to address clinicians' concerns about dosing accuracy when delivering small medication volumes. For syringe performance information on the low dose tip and other currently available products, see GEDSA's ENFit Low Dose Tip presentation (www.stayconnected.org).

ENFit Standard
Tip Syringe



ENFit Low Dose
Tip Syringe



MEDICATION PREPARATION: FILLING A SYRINGE USING A BOTTLE FILL CAP

Always consult the syringe manufacturer on instructions for use. These are guidelines for general filling practices and do not supersede the manufacturer recommendations.

Current fill caps will NOT work directly with the new ENFit syringes. This procedure will demonstrate different ways to fill ENFit syringes.

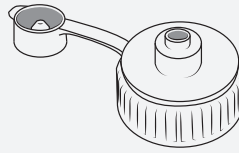
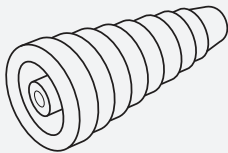


Liquid medication
bottle with open top

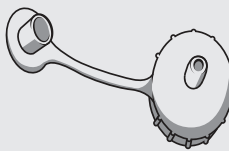
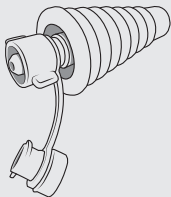


Liquid medication
bottle with press-in
oral syringe adapter

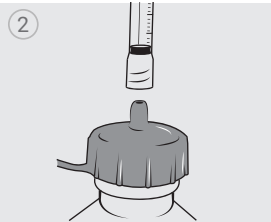
CURRENT



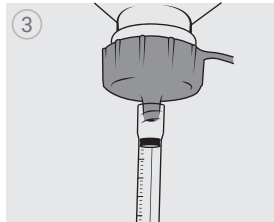
NEW



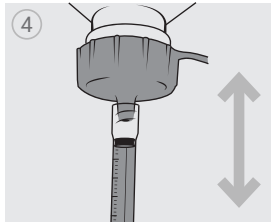
Step 1. Make sure that the medication bottle has an ENFit compatible fill cap such as the ones shown above.



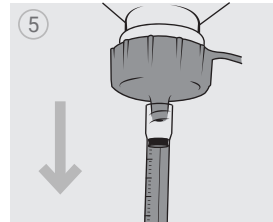
Step 2. Attach the syringe
to the bottle adapter.



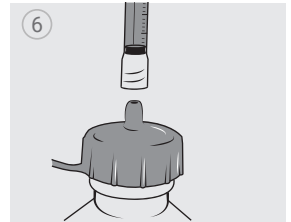
Step 3. Turn medication
bottle upside down.



Step 4. Quickly pull and
push syringe to cycle
(eliminates air bubbles)



Step 5. Pull plunger back
to desired dose.



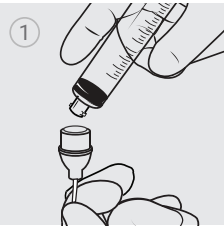
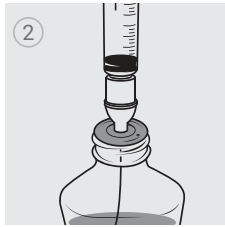
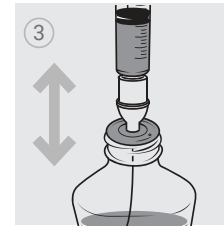
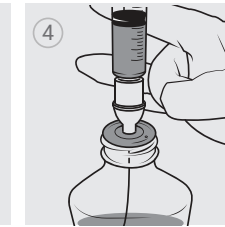
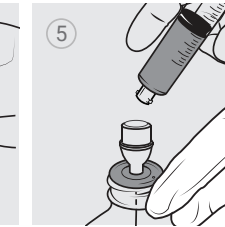
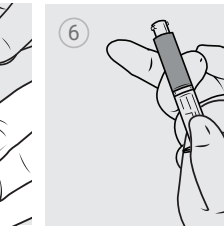
Step 6. Turn bottle right
side up and remove syringe.

FILLING THE SYRINGE WITH A MEDICATION STRAW

When an ENFit bottle cap will not fit the medication bottle or it is impossible to remove the current bottle adapter, fill the syringe using a medication straw.

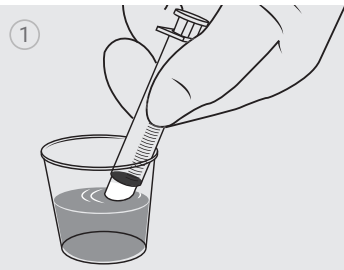
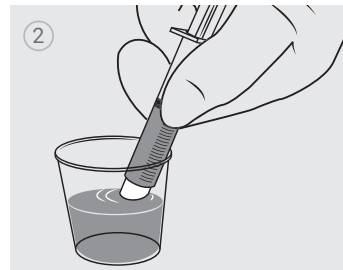
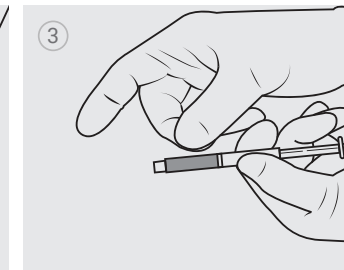
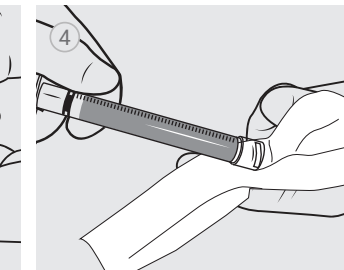


Example of a Medication Straw

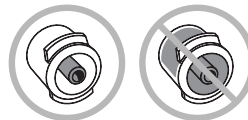
					
Step 1. Connect the ENFit medication straw to the syringe.	Step 2. Insert straw through existing adapter or directly into bottle.	Step 3. Cycle the syringe to help eliminate air bubbles and then draw up medication to desired dose.	Step 4. Gently tap or flick to remove any remaining medication in the straw and to eliminate air bubbles in the syringe.	Step 5. Gently twist the syringe to remove it from the bottle.	Step 6. Carefully tap or flick the syringe to remove excess fluid in the moat.

FILLING THE SYRINGE USING A MEDICATION CUP

If the medication is delivered in a dose cup and needs to be transferred to an enteral syringe, the syringe can be prepared in two ways. **NOTE:** Filling the syringe via a dose cup is not the preferred method for filling the syringe.

			
Step 1. Submerge tip of syringe into medication cup after priming syringe.	Step 2. Cycle the syringe and then gently pull up on the plunger to fill syringe to desired dose.	Step 3. Tap/flick the syringe to remove air bubbles.	Step 4. Wipe off end of syringe to remove excess medication in tip.

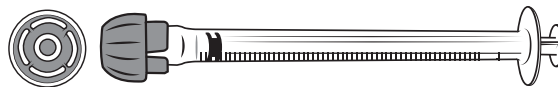
NOTE: Critical medications such as narcotics or cardiac medications that have a narrow therapeutic index **MUST** be free of medication in the moat of the low dose tip syringe.



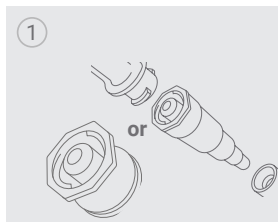
ADMINISTRATION FOR ALL FILLING METHODS

Administering medication is easy with the ENFit system. Note that ENFit labeled enteral access devices with feeding or medication ports are only compatible with ENFit medication syringes.

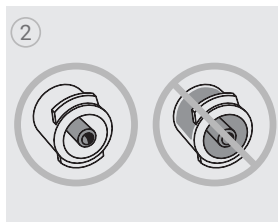
Once you have verified correct patient using 2 forms of identification and perform hand hygiene:



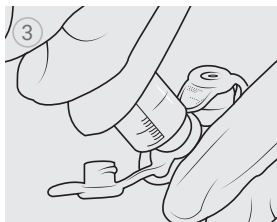
Example of ENFit Syringe and Syringe Cap



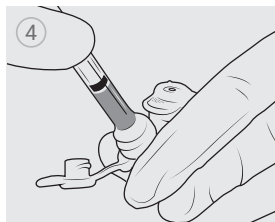
Step 1. Verify feeding tube or access device/extension set is ENFit compatible (ENFit port or Transition Connector Extension set is in place).



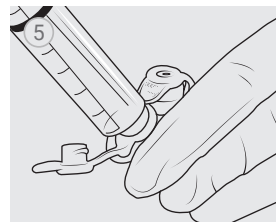
Step 2. When using an ENFit Low Dose Tip syringe, verify the moat is free of excess medication. If there is excess, flick the end of the syringe to remove.



Step 3. Attach an ENFit syringe with flush solution to patient tube or extension set and administer the flush. Detach the syringe.



Step 4. Attach ENFit tip syringe into medication port. Once secure, gently push syringe plunger to transfer medication into enteral access site.



Step 5. After completely expelling the medication from the syringe, detach the syringe and flush the medication port according to instructions.

Oral Applications

When considering using an ENFit syringe for oral route medication administration, contact the syringe manufacturer for specific indications for use and instructions OR contact your organizational supply chain personnel.