

DOSAGE CALCULATION



METHODS FOR DRUG DOSAGE CALCULATIONS

Various methods are used for solving medication calculation, the most common methods are :

- **Desired Over Have or Formula Method**
- **Dimensional Analysis Method**
- **Ratio and Proportion Method**

Formula Method

$$\frac{\text{DESIRED (D)}}{\text{HAVE (H)}} \times \text{QUANTITY (Q)} = Y \text{ (amount to administer)}$$

Symbol	Meaning	Example
D	Dosage ordered or desired dose	• Give 1.2 milliliters • The doctor orders 90 milligrams
H	Dose on hand or dose, on the label of bottle, vial, ampule.	• 250 milligrams • 100 mg 
Q	The unit of measure for the specific dosage strength or supply on hand (the form in which the drug comes)	• per tablet • per capsule • in 2 mL
Y	The dosage you are trying to calculate	

Example 1: Ampicillin 1.5 g. is ordered. Ampicillin is available as 500 mg per capsules. How many tablets would the nurse administer?

- Desired (D) = 1.5 g = 1500 mg
- On hand (H) = 500 mg
- Quantity (Q) = 1 capsule

$$\frac{1500 \text{ mg}}{500 \text{ mg}} \times 1 \text{ (Capsule)} = 3 \text{ capsules}$$

Make sure that these units match up 

The nurse would administer 3 capsules

Example 2:

- Order: Acetaminophen 500 mg
- On hand: Acetaminophen 250 mg in 5 mL

- Desired (D) = 500 mg
- On hand (H) = 250 mg
- Quantity (Q) = 5 mL

$$\frac{500 \text{ mg}}{250 \text{ mg}} \times 5 \text{ mL} = 10 \text{ mL}$$

Make sure that these units match up 

The nurse would administer 10 mL of Acetaminophen



Lpn Medication Dosage Guide

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