**PURPOSE:**
To provide safe and accurate medication administration. To instruct the parent/caregiver about oral medication administration and the medication regime.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**
1. Secure parent’s/caregiver’s participation when administering medications to infants and small children.
2. Hold or cuddle infants and small children to decrease combativeness.
3. Teach parent/caregiver age appropriate positioning of the child to secure cooperation and decrease combativeness.
4. Allow small children the opportunity to take the medication themselves.
5. Use a dropper, an oral medication administration device, or a nipple device for infants and young children.
6. When appropriate mix the medication in small amounts of food or liquid.
7. When possible have medication flavored with a chosen flavor.
8. DO NOT crush enteric coated and formulated slow-release medications.
9. Praise and reward the child after the medication is taken.
10. At each visit complete a medication history for compliance, side effects, effectiveness of the medication, medication changes and patient/caregiver knowledge.

**EQUIPMENT:**
Written patient medication guides (to be left in the home)
Medication cup
Oral medication syringe
Nipple
Water (or other medication-compatible fluid)
Spoon
Pill crusher

**PROCEDURE:**
1. Check the physician’s order for the patient’s medications. It should include:
   a. Name of the patient.
   b. Name of the medication.
   c. Medication dose, route and frequency.
2. Complete a medication history.
3. Instruct the parent/caregiver on the purpose, side effects, dosage and schedule of the medication.
4. Wash hands and gather supplies.
5. Demonstrate preparation of the medication.
6. Demonstrate age appropriate administration of medication as needed.
7. Parent/caregiver does return demonstration of medication preparation/administration as needed.
8. Provide the parent/caregiver with instructional medication handouts and teaching guides. Topics should include:
   a. Medication name, both trade and generic.
   b. Purpose of the medication.
   c. Dose and scheduling of administration times.
   d. Side effects.
   e. Normal appearance of the medication.
   f. Special considerations for administration (with food or not).
   g. When to call the visiting nurse or physician.
   h. Storage of the medication.
9. Teach the parent/caregiver techniques to promote compliance:
   a. Fit the medication into the patient’s daily routine.
   b. Use calendars or checklists with medication times marked and check off when it is given.
   c. Use appropriate medication containers.
   d. Request liquid preparations, if needed or preferred by the child.
10. Report to the physician therapeutic effects, side effects or compliance issues.
11. Encourage the use of a consistent pharmacy.
12. Consult with your agency for guidelines for drugs not FDA approved.

**AFTER CARE:**
1. Document in the patient’s record:
   a. Medication administered, dose, time and route.
   b. Patient’s tolerance to the procedure and response to the medication.
   c. Teaching and instructions given to the parent/caregiver.
   d. Parent/caregiver response to teaching.
   e. Communication with the physician.

**REFERENCES:**

