

SAFE TOPICAL MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION



Supplies



Topical medication



Gloves



Gauze



Sterile saline to clean site

Procedure

1. Verify medication using Seven Rights of Administration and review order.
2. Expose application site and assess skin.
3. If necessary, clean the site using soap and water.
4. Perform hand hygiene, reapply gloves.
5. Open the topical medication.
6. Apply medication to gloved hand or directly to site.
7. Use smooth, gentle strokes to evenly apply medication to affected area.
8. Provide client with appropriate follow-up care instructions.
9. Remove gloves, perform hand hygiene.



- Do not apply medication to skin that is not intact unless ordered to do so.
- Be aware that lotions and creams may interact with medications.
- If skin is dry or **flakey**, clean the area first and apply medication while skin is damp.
- Do not vigorously rub medication into skin.
- Remember that mucus membranes will absorb medications more rapidly than skin.
- Routinely assess the application site.

NOTES

