Key Steps — Drawing up medication from an ampoule

The key steps for this skill, in the order they are demonstrated in the video. Part of our Medication Administration skills collection.

- ☐ 1. Check the medication name, strength and expiry date on the ampoule against the order.
- ☐ 2. Perform hand hygiene and prepare a clean work surface with the syringe, needle and a sharps container.
- ☐ 3. Tap the ampoule or swirl it gently so all the liquid sits below the neck.
- ☐ 4. Clean the neck of the ampoule with an antiseptic swab and let it dry.
- ☐ 5. Snap the neck open, breaking it away from you and protecting your fingers with gauze or the wrapper.
- ☐ 6. Insert the needle without touching the broken rim, and draw up the volume required.
- ☐ 7. Tap out any air bubbles and adjust to the exact dose.
- ☐ 8. Change to a fresh needle before administration if local policy requires it.
- ☐ 9. Dispose of the glass neck and any sharps safely, and use the drawn-up medication promptly.

Watch the demonstration: medicalvideos.com/watch/drawing-from-a-ampoule_qwbxg8tnzi7g4yhnd8m5.html •
More Medication Administration skills: medicalvideos.com/nursing/medication-administration.html
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Steps summarise this demonstration for education and do not replace your institution's protocol, which always governs. Content reviewed by Dr. Mohamed Ibrahim, MD, PhD — physician-scientist. October 2026.