

Filter Needle

● SKILL SNAPSHOT

Purpose

- Filters glass particles while withdrawing medication from a glass ampule; it is replaced before patient administration.

When to use

- Preparing medication from a glass ampule or when a manufacturer/policy specifically requires filtration.

Supplies needed

- Medication ampule; filter needle or filter straw; syringe; administration needle/needleless device; gauze or ampule opener; antiseptic; sharps container.

● PREP + PATIENT SETUP

- Verify medication rights, ampule concentration, dose, expiration, and solution integrity.
- Confirm required filter pore/device and final administration route.
- Gather a new administration needle/device

● VAULT TIP

- Remember the exchange: filter to draw, new device to give.

● STEP-BY-STEP

1. Hand hygiene; compare ampule label with MAR/order and inspect for cracks, particles, and correct solution.
2. Tap or flick ampule gently so medication moves from neck into body.
3. Clean ampule neck if policy requires and allow it to dry.
4. Wrap neck with gauze or use an ampule opener. Hold away from face and snap top away from the body.
5. Inspect open ampule for glass fragments. Discard safely if excessive glass or contamination is visible.
6. Attach filter needle/straw securely to syringe without touching sterile connection points.
7. Tilt ampule and place bevel/opening below fluid surface without scraping the cut glass edge.
8. Withdraw prescribed volume slowly, keeping tip in solution. Avoid injecting air into the ampule.
9. Remove bubbles and verify exact dose while the filter device is still attached.
10. Withdraw device from ampule and engage safety if present. Discard broken ampule and filter needle immediately in sharps container.
11. Remove filter needle from syringe using safety device/no-touch method. Never inject medication through a filter needle used for withdrawal.
12. Attach a new sterile administration needle or needleless connector appropriate for the ordered route.
13. Label syringe immediately and perform final medication check before administration.

● SAFETY REMINDERS

- Filter needles are for withdrawal, not injection into the patient.
- Never recap or manipulate broken ampule glass.
- Do not reuse the filter needle for another ampule.
- Discard cracked/contaminated ampules.

● COMMON MISTAKES

- Injecting through filter needle.
- Snapping ampule toward self.
- Scraping needle on glass edge.
- Leaving prepared syringe unlabeled.

● DOCUMENTATION

- Medication administration in MAR.
- Preparation variance or damaged ampule.
- Waste per controlled-drug policy.
- Needlestick/glass injury and actions.
- Patient response after administration.