

## Discussion Question

### Week 3 DQ 1

Due Week 3 Day 2 (Tuesday, October 4)

Describe the advantages and disadvantages of the three systems used for measuring drugs and solutions. As a pharmacy technician, which system would you prefer? As a patient, which one would you prefer? Explain your answers.

Remember that your response should be at least 150 words, be formatted into paragraphs, and not contain any spelling or grammar errors.

The advantages and disadvantages of the three systems used for measuring drugs and solutions include that the metric system is widely and easy to use. The metric system can be used to measure weight and volume, whereas the avoirdupois system is used to only measure weight. Although the avoirdupois system requires no need to learn conversions because the medications are prepared and administered in the same system. The metric and avoirdupois systems are more accurate than the household system, but the household system is more readily available to all persons because it involves using everyday household items, such as the teaspoon, tablespoon, cup, et cetera. The apothecary system is a fourth system that has been largely replaced by the metric system because its measurements are not accurate.

As a pharmacy technician I would prefer to use the metric system as it is the most accurate, as well as easy to use. As a patient, I prefer the household system, because it is easily available no matter where I am, and is easy to use as well.

### Response 2

The advantages of the metric system is it is widely known and used, the disadvantage of the metric system is they are hard to calculate. The metric system uses decimals to express units of weight, volume, and length. These units are used to measure temperature, speed, force.

The disadvantage of the apothecary is on old system of measurement that is not widely used because it is an approximate not an exact way of measuring. An advantage of the apothecary systems is it uses roman numerals, common fractions, special symbols and units of measure to precede numeric values.

The advantages of using the household system is it is widely used, and widely available, and most people already have household measure containers in their homes. The disadvantage of the house hold system is not every one uses the same size tablespoon to measure certain medications so the patient may not be getting the exact amount of medication needed.

As a pharmacy technician I would prefer the metric system because I know it is measured

accurately, and I would be given / getting the correct amount of medication.

As a patient I would prefer the household system because it is readily available to me, and I would not have to worry about forgetting to ask the pharmacy for a measuring device.

## Discussion Question

### Week 3 DQ 2

Due Week 3 Day 4 (Thursday, October 6)

A pharmacy technician is dispensing a prescription for a patient that reads: 15 mL of cough suppressant 3 times a day for 10 days. What measurement device should the technician recommend to the patient and why? What household equipment could the patient use? What considerations must be kept in mind when explaining to patients how to take their medications at home?

Remember that your response should be at least 150 words, be formatted with paragraphs, and not contain any spelling or grammar errors.

I would give the patient one of the measuring device we have in the pharmacy for the patient to measure the medication because if they use a household measuring device they may not get the correct amount of medication. I would tell the patient to take 3 teaspoonfuls three times a day for 10 days.

If the patient did not want a measuring device from the pharmacy I would recommend them to use a measuring spoon to get a more accurate measurement of medication

Most patient to not know or realize that 15 mL is equal to 3 teaspoons, and most people would go home and just use a regular teaspoon which could be bigger than normal teaspoon, and would get to much cough medication.

### Response 2

The technician should recommend the measuring device that the pharmacy provides to make sure they are getting the correct dosage. Some of the device used to measure medications includes the mL and Tablespoon, teaspoon so the patient can get an idea of the measurement if using the household system to measure. For example 1/4 t. is a little more than 1mL, in this

instance the patient could use the device given by the pharmacy to then compare it to a teaspoon measurement to ensure they are getting the right amount.

Besides letting the patient know to take the correct dosages, other considerations to keep in mind when explaining to patients how to take their med's at home include letting the patient know that they should take the medication as directed by the physician, and not to miss a dose, if it is missed and is not close to the next dosage time then the patient should take it otherwise they should skip the missed dose as to keep from doubling the dose. The patient should follow what the information tags say that are given on the medication container, such as "take with food". If there are medications or foods that could interfere with the given medication, the patient should be made aware as well.