

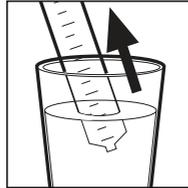
a guide for patients

# cleaning your re-usable syringes

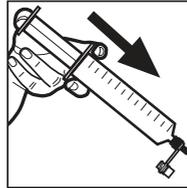
## DRAW UP AND FLUSH



Draw up sterile water in less than 1 year old and immunocompromised patients

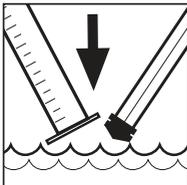


Draw up using tap water or cooled boiled water

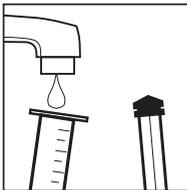


Flush syringe and feeding device

## CLEANING



Separate the syringe and plunger and clean the syringe in warm soapy water.



Separate syringe and rinse with cold tap water and dry with paper towel. Store in dry container

- After use, clean your syringes straight away
- Place syringe in warm soapy water
- Clean the end of the syringe by drawing soapy water in and out using the plunger until all traces of feed or medication have been removed.

Separate syringe and plunger and wash thoroughly in warm soapy water

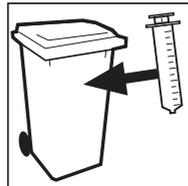
- Rinse both parts of the syringe under the tap, shake off excess water
- Dry with clean, disposable kitchen roll (do not use dishcloths or tea towel)
- Store the syringe still separated in a clean dry container with a lid.
- Do not place in the dishwasher as it can reduce the life of the syringes.

If at any point during use the syringe becomes difficult to operate, the markings become unclear or there is any visible damage to the syringe, you should throw it away and start to use a new one.

## CLEANING



Discard after a maximum of 7 days



Dispose in household rubbish



Medicina HE syringes are designed to be used with all of the enteral feeds and medications supplied by your clinician. They can be cleaned and re-used up to 40 times over a 7 day period for the same patient. Do not attempt to re-use any other type of Medicina syringe – most others are not designed for re-use and are supplied sterile. Re-use of a sterile syringe may seriously compromise the patient's health especially if the patient is immunocompromised or at high risk from infections.

## Warnings

Clinicians – Ensure that home operators receive adequate training on how to administer enteral feeds/medications and also on how to clean and maintain the syringe. Ensure that the home environment is acceptable for the re-use of enteral feeding equipment. Confirm that the feeds and medications are compatible with polypropylene syringes. For patients under 1 year or immunocompromised, consider instructing the operator to place syringe in cold sterilising solution. Connect the syringe only as instructed and do not attempt to connect it to any other component. Use only with feeds and Medications prescribed to you by a clinician. If you do use any other fluids, discard the syringe and use a fresh one.

Follow the cleaning instructions on this leaflet – Use warm water and washing-up liquid and nothing else - do not use boiling water, a dishwasher or a steam steriliser to clean the syringe. Do not use any cleaning clothes, scouring pads or brushes etc - the use of any other materials may damage the surface finish and affect the syringe performance. If you do, discard the syringe and use a fresh one. As with any other Medications or feeds, avoid contact with any other fluids if they have not been prescribed.

## Use Instructions

Do not use the syringe if it appears damaged or if it has been dropped – discard and use a fresh one. Use only to administer fluids that you have been prescribed.

Fill the syringe the way you have been educated – use the correct size syringe for the volume to be administered - fill and expel air to the correct volume as shown taking care not to fill the syringe nozzle. Hold the syringe so that your hand does not obscure the graduations when you are filling this will help with accuracy.

## Cleaning Instructions

Clean the syringe immediately after use – failure to do so may result in the syringe becoming contaminated with dry feed or medication which may cause problems if mixed with fresh fluids.

Pull the plunger to the end of the barrel and gently manipulate the plunger from side to side while pulling gently – the plunger will come out of the barrel. Clean the barrel and the plunger in warm soapy water only – do not use any other cleaning fluids. Pay particular attention to the plunger seal and the nozzle of the barrel.

Rinse the barrel and the plunger in cold tap water, ensuring that all of the soapy water is rinsed away. Place on clean fresh kitchen roll or paper towel to dry. Avoid touching the seal of the plunger or the inside surface of the barrel. To reassemble – Inspect the barrel and plunger ensuring that there are no traces of feed or medicines – check that the inside of the barrel is free from scratches or abrasions and the surface of the seal is not damaged or distorted – it must lie flat and secure in the groove on the plunger. Then gently manipulate the plunger back into the barrel and push the plunger the length of the barrel until its face almost touches the other end of the barrel – Store the re-assembled syringe in a dry container ready for the next use. If the syringe cannot be cleaned effectively or is damaged, discard it and use a fresh one. The cleaning and rinse water can drain away as normal – there is no need for any special precautions.

If so instructed, you can place the syringe in cold sterilising solution. Please follow the manufacturer's instructions. Leave the syringes in the sterilising fluid for as short a time as allowable, usually 15 minutes. Longer immersion can severely reduce the life of the syringe by removing the markings or making it hard to use.

The syringe must only be used for a maximum of seven days or 40 washes before it is discarded and a fresh one used. The syringe may not operate effectively if used after this seven day period has expired. Do not attempt to use the syringe if the markings are unclear or it is stiff or difficult to operate. Clean the syringe prior to disposal and dispose of the syringe as household non-recyclable waste – do not place the syringe in a recycling container.