

## **GUIDELINES FOR ROUNDING OFF, CALCULATING TABLETS AND IV PIGGYBACK DOSAGE CALCULATIONS**

1. Round to the appropriate whole number, tenth or hundredth by dropping digits less than 5 and rounding up if 5 or greater. Ex: rounding to tenths:  $1.63 = 1.6$     $1.68 = 1.7$
2. Always round the patient's weight before continuing with calculations.
3. Any tablet or pill can be divided into  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  for calculation purposes. This is done in reality and, therefore, should be done on math quizzes/questions.

### 4. **Oral Medications:**

#### Tablets:

- If a tablet is not scored, round to the nearest whole number.
- If a tablet is scored, break in half or quarters to obtain as exact a dose as possible.  
Ex:  $1.5 = 1 \frac{1}{2}$  tablets,  $1.25 = 1 \frac{1}{4}$  tablets.
- More than 2 tablets per dose may be given when needed
- Un-scored tablets can be split with a cutter when needed

#### Liquids:

- Round milliliters to the nearest tenth. If needed, an oral syringe can be used to provide the most accurate dose.  
Ex:  $1.57 = 1.6$  ml's  
       $1.34 = 1.3$  ml's
- Round drops to the nearest whole number.

### 5. **Injections**

- Subcutaneous: Round to nearest hundredth  
Ex:  $0.877 = 0.88$  ml
- IM or IVP: Round to nearest tenth.  
Ex:  $1.54 = 1.5$  ml

### 6. **Intravenous solutions:**

- Calculate gtts/min to the nearest whole number  
Ex:  $26.7 = 27$  gtts/min
- Calculate cc/hr. (pumps) to the nearest whole number.  
Ex:  $150.2 = 150$  ml/hr

Special considerations may be applied to pediatric doses and critical care IV drips. Although many pumps have the capability to deliver amounts rounded to tenths, follow these rules unless specifically instructed to do otherwise. In NSG 220, when calculating pump rate, round to nearest whole number.