

Key Terms

Units: Basic measurement used to determine the strength of medication; in the metric system, a dimension, such as weight or mass (gram), volume (liter), and length (meter).

Metric System: Standardized international system of units and measurements based on powers of 10, also known as International System of Units; used for most medication doses in the US.

Equivalent: Equal in value

Ratio: Means of describing the relationship between two numbers or objects

Proportion: Comparative relationship between the parts; one or more ratios that are compared

Metric Prefix: prefix of the root words that indicates the magnitude of a number in the metric system

U.S. Household measurements: A system of measurement developed using common household containers (tsp, cup, pints, etc) whereby patients could administer medical dosages at home.

Source: Hickey, R. H. (2009). *Saunders Math Skills for Health Professionals*. St. Louis, MO: Saunders.