

How to Use Ear Drops Properly



(Having someone else give you the ear drops may make this procedure easier.)

- 1. Gently clean your ear with a damp facecloth and then dry your ear.
- 2. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- 3. Warm the drops to near body temperature by holding the container in your hand for a few minutes.
- 4. If the drops are a cloudy suspension, shake the bottle well for 10 seconds.
- 5. Check the dropper tip to make sure that it is not chipped or cracked.
- 6. Draw the medication into the dropper, or hold the dropper-top bottle with the dropper tip down.
- 7. Tilt the affected ear up or lie on your side.
- 8. Avoid touching the dropper tip against your ear or anything else ear drops and the dropper must be kept clean.
- 9. Place the correct amount in your ear. Then tug gently on your ear to allow the drops to run in.
- 10. Keep your ear tilted up for a few minutes or insert a soft cotton plug in your ear, whichever method has been recommended by your pharmacist or doctor.
- 11. Replace and tighten the cap or dropper right away.
- 12. Wash your hands to remove any medication.

REMEMBER:

Follow directions carefully Do not miss doses Store medications out of reach of children

Adapted, with permission, from the Michigan Pharmacists Association's Patient Education Program.

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