



Math Study Strategies

Math for Nursing Oral Medication

You need to give aspirin 325 mg p.o. The label reads Aspirin **gr v** per tablet. How many tablets will you give?

To solve this problem you will do the following steps:

- First you need to see what is the prescribed medication: **The answer is 325 mg that needs to be administered by mouth.**
- To find out how many tablets you need to administer, **follow the prescription and use** what you have on hand, then calculate the dosage using **dimensional analysis (da).**

When ever a dimensional analysis is used **start with unit of measure for the medication you need to administer:**

- Because is asked: number of tablets start in the numerator with this unit (**1 tablet**)
- Change **grain** (what you have on hand) into **mg** that is prescribed
- Use the amount prescribed per dose.

According to the equivalency between grain and milligram

$$\text{We can write } 1\frac{1}{2} \text{ grain} = 100\text{mg}$$

Change the mixed number into an improper fraction

$$1\frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \text{ grain}$$

Use dimensional analysis to write the ratios

$$\frac{1 \text{ tablet}}{\text{grV}} \times \frac{\cancel{\text{gr}} \frac{3}{2}}{100 \cancel{\text{mg}}} \times \frac{325 \cancel{\text{mg}}}{\text{dose } 500} = \frac{975}{500} = 0.975 \text{ tablets}$$

Because 0.975 is closer to 1 we must round up.

There fore the answer will be **1 tablet**

Most tablets, capsules or caplets and enteric tablets should not be broken in half exception are **scored tablets.**