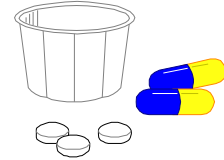




Math Study Strategies

Nursing Math

Adding Like Fractions



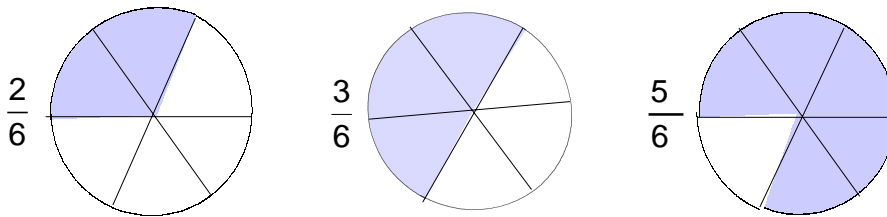
When administering dosages, it may sometimes be necessary to add fractions, such as when cutting tablets for fractional dosages. In addition and subtraction, fractions can be like or unlike. **Like fractions** have the same denominator and unlike fractions have different denominators.

When adding **like fractions**, follow the steps below:

Step 1

Add or subtract the numerators of the fractions and keep the denominator as is.

Example:



Add the numerators, keep the denominators as they are (**do not** add them).

$$\frac{2}{6} + \frac{3}{6} = \frac{5}{6}$$

Step 2

Reduce all answers to the lowest term or simplest form.

Because **5** and **6** are **relatively prime**, the fraction is in the **lowest term**

$$\frac{5}{9} + \frac{8}{9} = \frac{13}{9}$$

Step 3

If the sum of two fractions is an **improper fraction**, write it as a **mixed number**.

To **convert** the improper fraction into a mixed number, divide the denominator into the numerator. The quotient will be the whole part, the remainder will be the numerator, and the divisor will be the denominator.

$$\frac{13}{9} = 1\frac{4}{9}$$

The sum is $1\frac{4}{9}$

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