

## PHARM 504: Pharmacy Practice

### CALCULATION TIPS – *think realistically/practically!*

- **Normally, the smaller the syringe the more accurately it can measure small quantities.** It is important to be familiar with the info below so you know how many decimal places to round your answers to:
  - 60ml syringe can measure accurately to 1ml (demarcated every 2ml)
  - 20ml “ “ “ “ “ 0.5ml (demarcated every 1ml)
  - 10ml “ “ “ “ “ 0.25ml (demarcated every 0.5ml)
  - 5ml “ “ “ “ “ 0.1ml (demarcated every 0.2ml)
  - 3ml “ “ “ “ “ 0.05ml (demarcated every 0.1ml)
  - 1ml “ “ “ “ “ 0.01ml (demarcated every 0.01ml)
  
- **Always write out the units for your calculations** and then cancel them as you go through the calculation – this helps you make sure your numerators and denominators are correct
  
- **Don't round your answer until the END** (unless the problem is extraordinarily long)
  
- **“Always lead. . .never trail”:** Include a zero **in front** of the decimal for quantities less than 1; never put a zero at **the end** of a quantity, especially after a decimal
  
- Most infusion pumps can be calibrated to deliver accurately to 0.01ml – so **calculate drip rates to the nearest hundredth** (two decimal places)