Policy: Residents requiring thickened liquids will be provided with supplements and/or liquid medication of the appropriate consistency.

Procedure:

1. For all residents on thickened liquids, the physician’s orders will be reviewed on admission, readmission and with the addition of a new medication or supplement.

2. Residents on thickened liquids will have an identifier [*may or may not be synonymous with identifier for Aspiration Precautions]* on the ID band, hard chart and EMR [*as per facility policy and procedure]*

2. The licensed nurse will follow the attached guidelines for administering liquid medications and/or supplements to residents that require thickened liquids.

3. The eMAR will give clear instructions regarding how the liquid supplement or medication is to be administered to the resident.

4. The Speech Therapist will be consulted when clarification is needed.

5. The resident and/or the resident representative will be provided with education regarding safe administration of supplements and liquid medications.

6. The licensed nurse will inform the PMD if the resident experiences any difficulty with the consumption of medications/supplements and will carry out all orders [as indicated].

7. Residents that require evaluation by the Speech Therapist will be placed on the 24 hour report and discussed by the IDT at the morning [QA/QI] meeting.

Thickening of Medications and Supplements

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Medication/Supplement | Nectar Thick | Honey Thick | Pudding Thick |
| Hi Cal | This supplement is nectar thick and should be administered at room temperature | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO HONEY | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO PUDDING |
| Glucerna | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO NECTAR | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO HONEY | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO PUDDING |
| Ensure | This supplement is nectar thick and should be administered chilled | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO HONEY | UNABLE TO THICKEN TO PUDDING |
| Shakes  (nourishments provided by the kitchen) | Available in nectar | Available in honey | UNAVAILABLE |
| LPS | This is nectar thick | Mix medication with equal amounts of honey thick fluids | Mix medication with equal amounts of pudding thick fluids |
| Vitamin C  Robitussin  Multivitamin  Iron  Acetaminophen | Mix medications with equal amounts of nectar thick fluids | Mix medication with equal amounts of honey thick fluids | Mix medication with equal amounts of pudding thick fluids |
| Lactulose  Sorbitol  Milk of Magnesia  Mylanta | Mix medications with equal amounts of nectar thick fluids | Mix medication with equal amounts of honey thick fluids | Mix medication with equal amounts of pudding thick fluids |