

Are you giving a patient a spouted beaker?



Why?

...they are not necessarily easier or safer!

P.T.O.

Considerations BEFORE giving a patient a spouted beaker

Why I am considering one?	Things to think about	Use a beaker?
The patient is on thickened fluids or has swallowing problems	Spouted beakers can increase the risk of aspiration	ONLY if assessed and documented as safe by SALT team. May need supervision/support with drinking
The patient has sensory difficulties (difficulty sensing temperature, difficulty seeing the cup)	Increased risk of burns/scalds to mouth or if drink is knocked over drinks can still spill out of spouts	Under supervision Check temperature of drink before serving
The patient needs feeding/full assistance with drinking	Giving someone a drink using a spout can make it difficult for them to control how much is going in	Try an open cup/glass first. If they can feed themselves – encourage them to do so
The patient has cognitive problems	They may not recognise or be familiar with using a spouted beaker The beaker may change the taste of the drink which could put them off	Try an open cup/glass first. -this is a more normal way to drink Supervise drinking if from spouted beaker – make sure they are sitting upright and are not tipping their head right back
You or the patient are concerned they might spill a drink from an open cup	Some patients with tremors or dexterity problems may spill drinks from open cups but spouted beakers can still spill	Try other things first – a 2 handled open cup, offering half full cups. Consider referral to OT for specialist/weighted cup Are you concerned for patient safely or worried about having to clean up a spill?
The patient has requested one	Is this what they're used to? Do they use one of these at home? Are they worried about spilling the drink and making a mess? Why are they asking for a spout?	Consider alternatives first. Why are they asking for one? Do they need help/support with drinking? Consider all of the above. Some patients want and can benefit from spouted beakers (e.g pts with Parkinson's tremor)
Is it dignified and appropriate?	Spouts infantilise adult patients.	Would YOU drink from one?