Numbers and Operations: Family Physician
Idaho Physicians Associates
Job Description: Educate patients on wellness issues, diagnose and treat patients as problems occur.

Problem:
A child has a middle ear infection requiring an antibiotic that is dosed at 60 mg per kg a day and divided into 3 doses per day. The medication is supplied as a suspension, 250 mg / 5 ml.
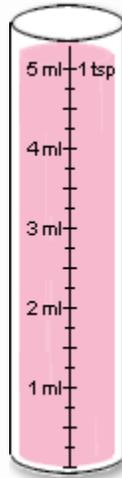
1. How many teaspoons is each dose for a child weighing 48 pounds?

2. How many ounces of medicine should the pharmacist dispense for an 8 day course of treatment?

Facts needed:

2.2 lbs = 1 kg
1 oz = 6 teaspoons
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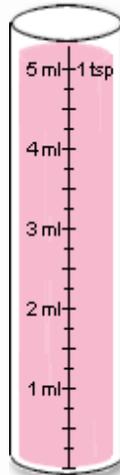
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Solution:
1. How many teaspoons per dose?

48 lb ÷ 2.2 lbs/kg = 21.8181 kg x 60 mg/kg = 1309.09 mg per day

1309.09 mg ÷ 3 doses = 436.36 mg per dose

250 mg of medication in 5 ml / 1 tsp = 5 ml = 250 mg of medication

436.36 mg ÷ 250 mg/tsp = 1.7454545 = 1.75 teaspoons per dose

2. How many ounces of medicine for 8 days of treatment?

3 doses/day x 8 days x 1.75 tsp/dose = 42 tsp of medicine

42 tsp ÷ 6 tsp/ounce = 7 ounces of medicine