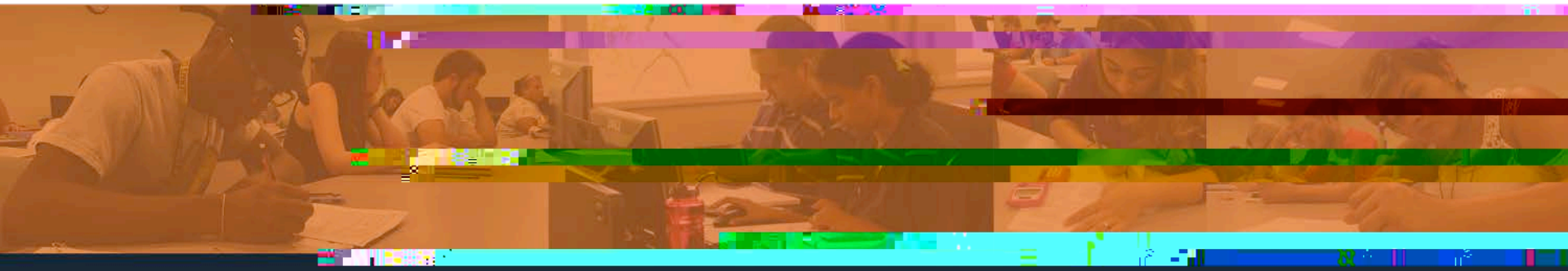
Dana Center
Mathematics
PATHWAYS

Teaching Dosage Calculations: Strategies for Narrowing the Theory-Practice Gap



Order: 500 mg Ibuprofen
Available: 250 mg / 1 tablet
Calculate the amount to administer.

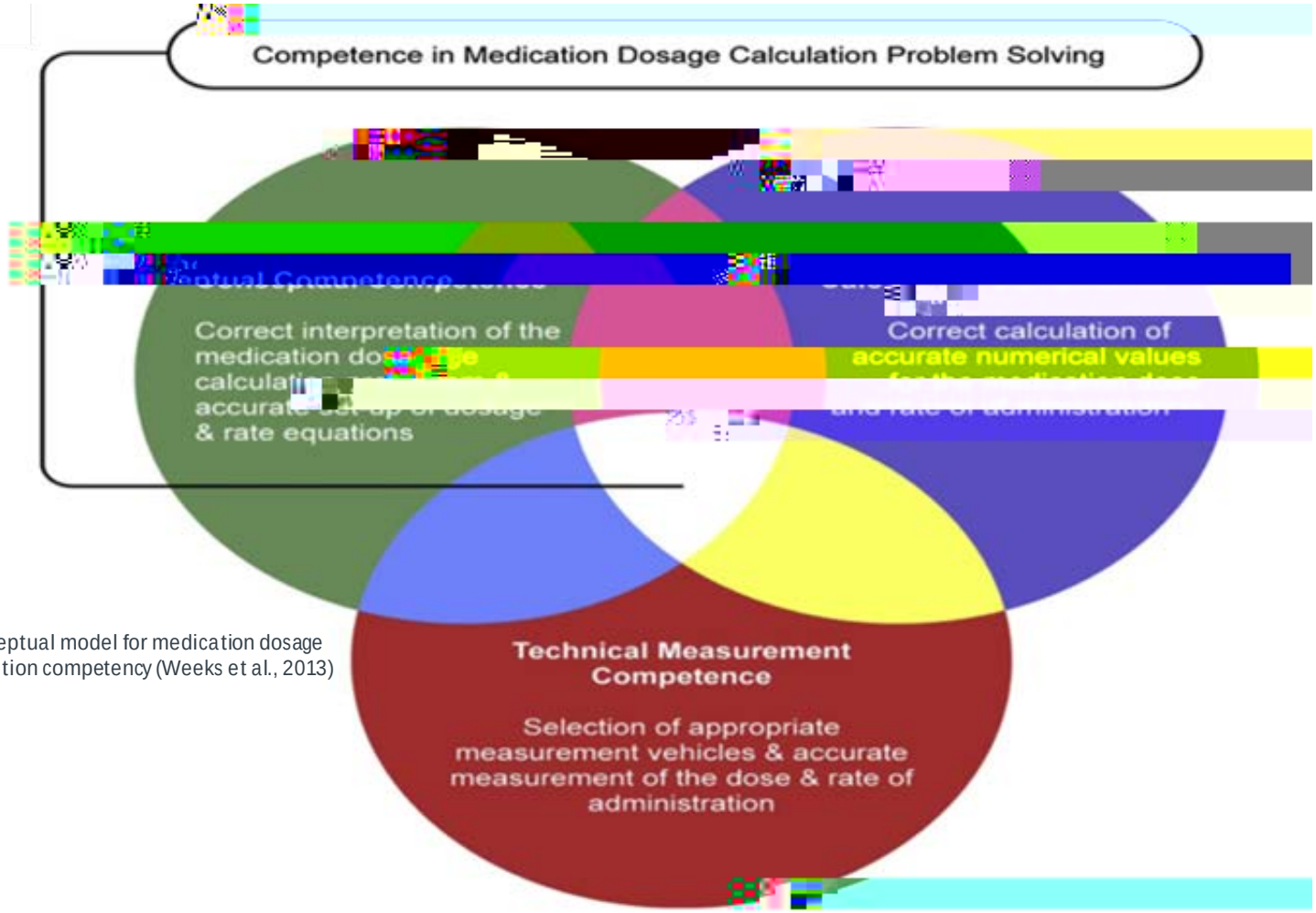
Order: 1 L NS over 4 hours
The available tubing has a drop factor of 25 gtt/mL.
Calculate the appropriate gtt/min flow rate.

An infant who weighs 7 pounds and 4 ounces has an order for digoxin solution, 49.5 mcg, oral, every 12 hours.
The drug reference states that a safe dosage range is 6-10 mcg/kg/ dose oral daily in 2 divided doses. Digoxin solution contains 0.05 mg/ 1 mL.
What is the minimum recommended dosage range for this child per dose?
Round to the nearest tenth.

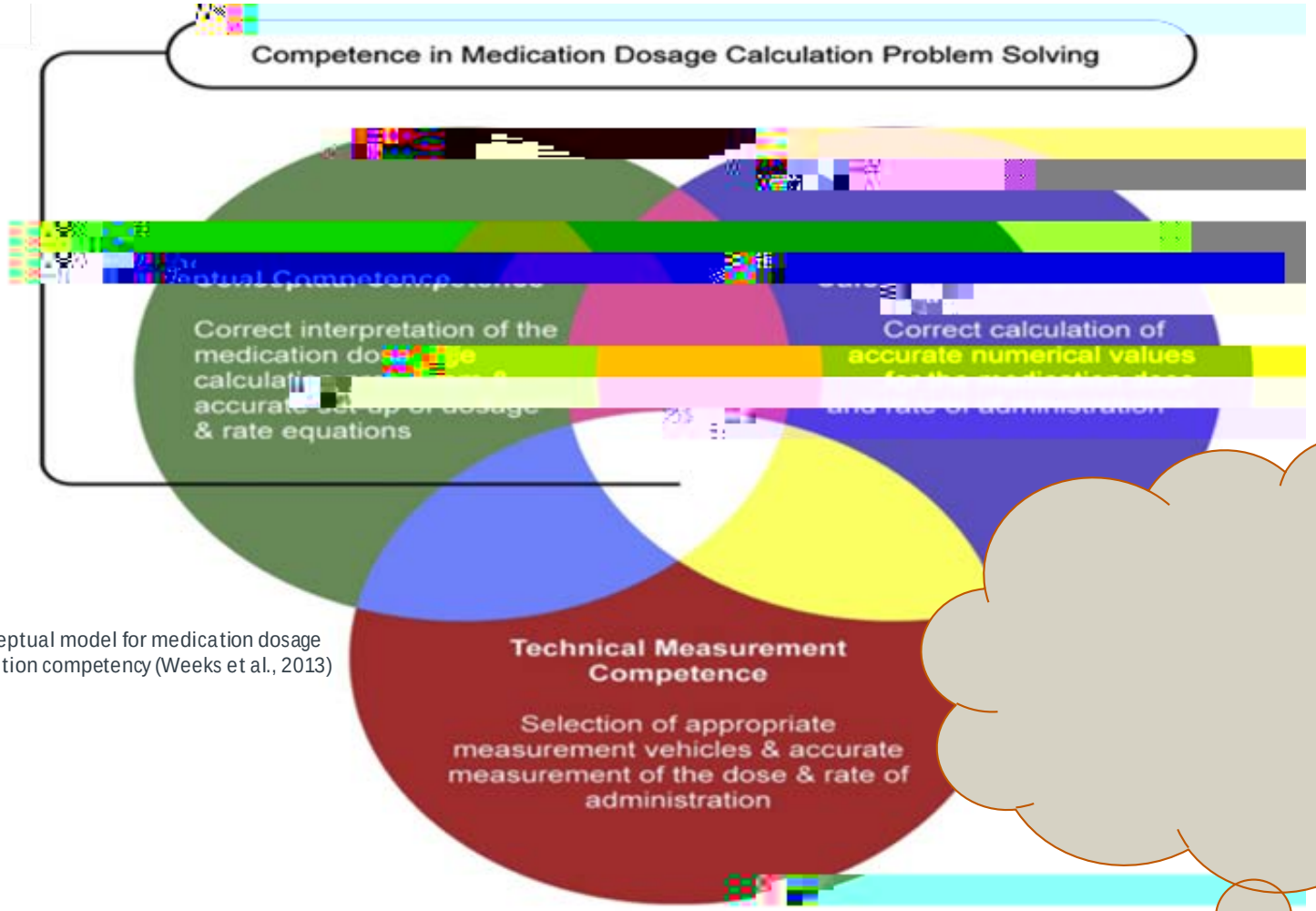
(IOM, 2000)

(Harvey et al., 2010)

(McMullan, Jones, & Lea, 2010)



A conceptual model for medication dosage calculation competency (Weeks et al., 2013)

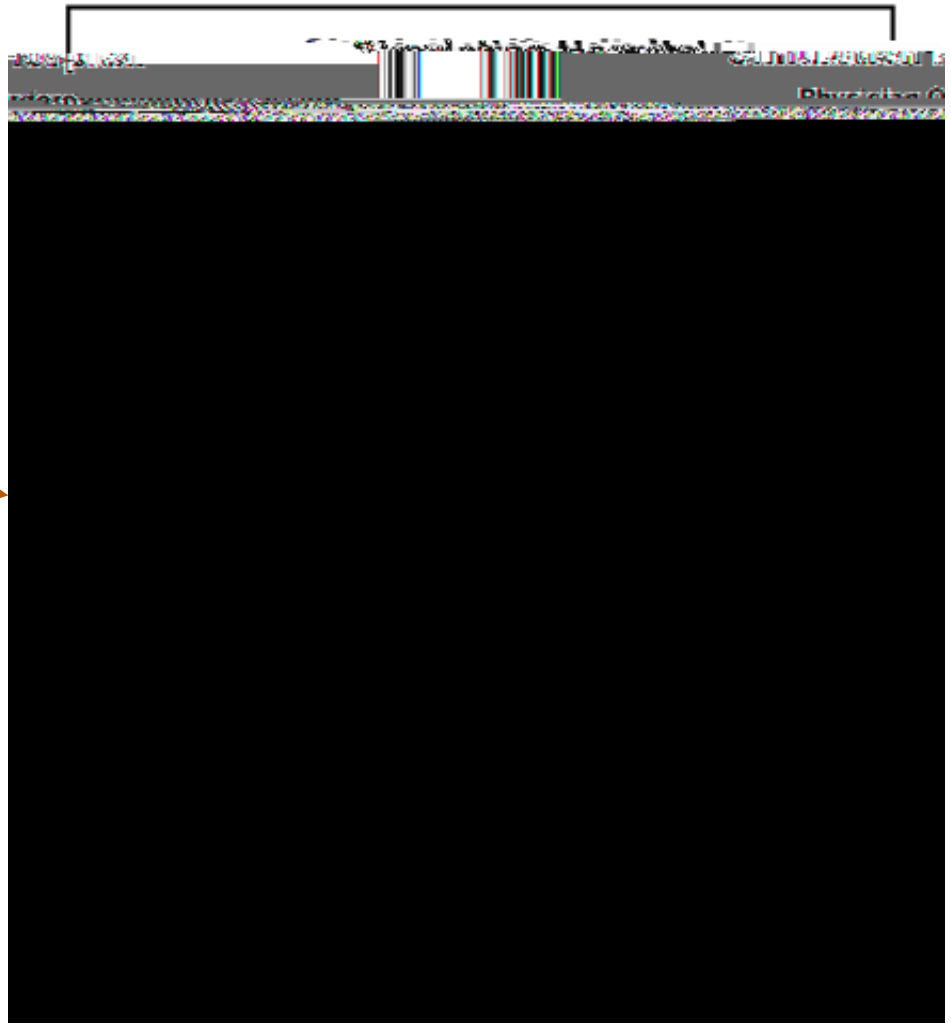


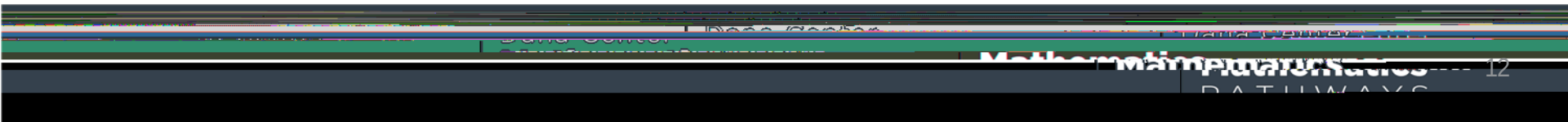
A conceptual model for medication dosage calculation competency (Weeks et al., 2013)

(Abell et al., 2019; Wright, 2012)

(AMATYC, 2018; Murphy & Murphy, 2019)

How could this task be modified to be more “authentic”?




Mathematics
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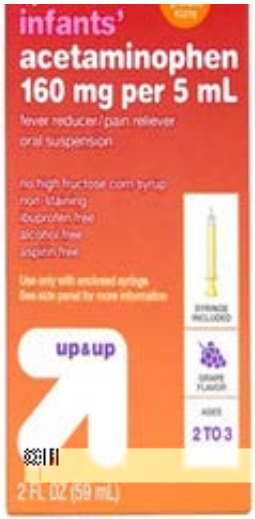
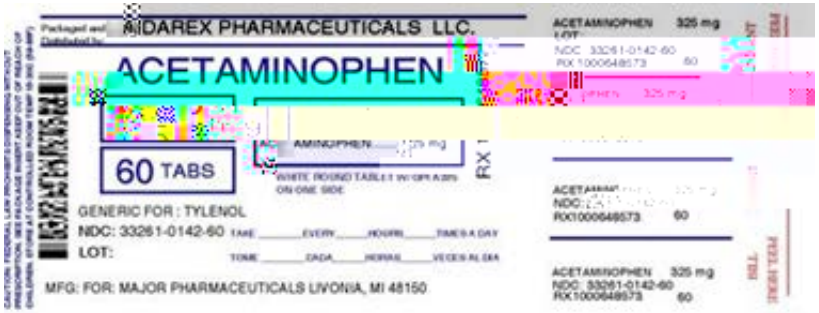
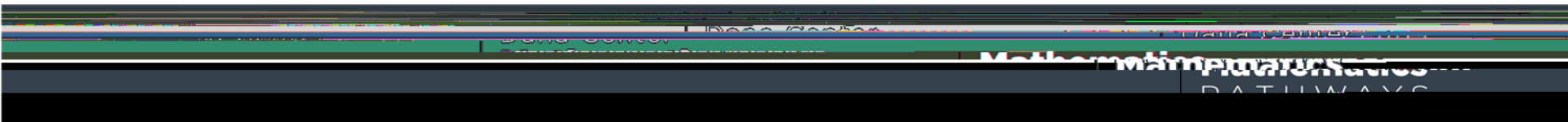
PATHWAYS

Physician Orders
Age: 4 weeks
Fever
DOB:
CBC, BMP, UA


infants'
acetaminophen
160 mg per 5 mL
fever reducer/pain reliever
oral suspension
up&up
2 TO 3
2 FL OZ (59 mL)

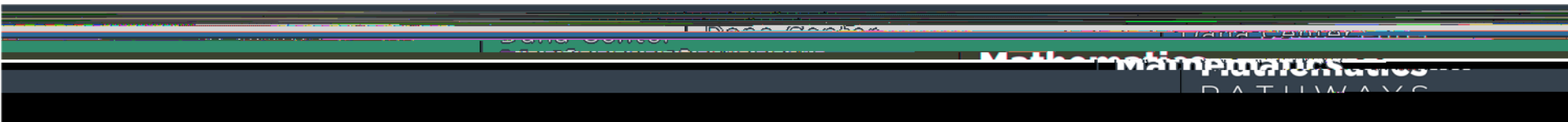
Delivers 5 mL
ACETAMINOPHEN and
CODEINE PHOSPHATE
ORAL SOLUTION USP
FOR INSTITUTIONAL USE ONLY
Rx ONLY
PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATES, INC.
GREENVILLE, SC 29605
SEE INSERT

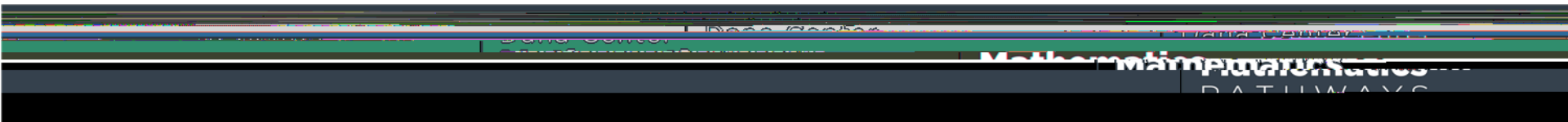

AIDAREX PHARMACEUTICALS LLC.
ACETAMINOPHEN
60 TABS
GENERIC FOR : TYLENOL
NDC: 33261-0142-60
LOT:
MFG: FOR: MAJOR PHARMACEUTICALS LIVONIA, MI 48150

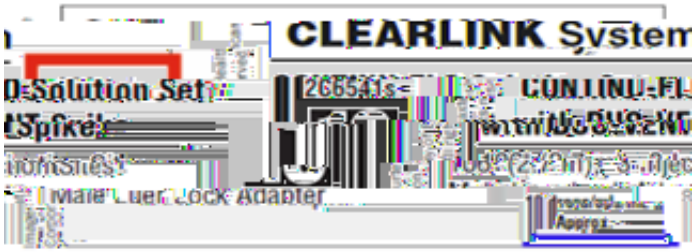


CefTRIaxONE for Injection and Dextrose Injection
2g
DUPLEX®
DRUG DELIVERY SYSTEM
50 mL
B BRAUN
Rx only
LOT
EXP

___ . __ mL/hr ____ mL __:__hr:min



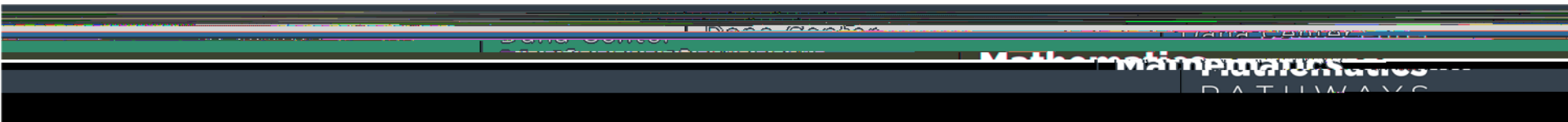


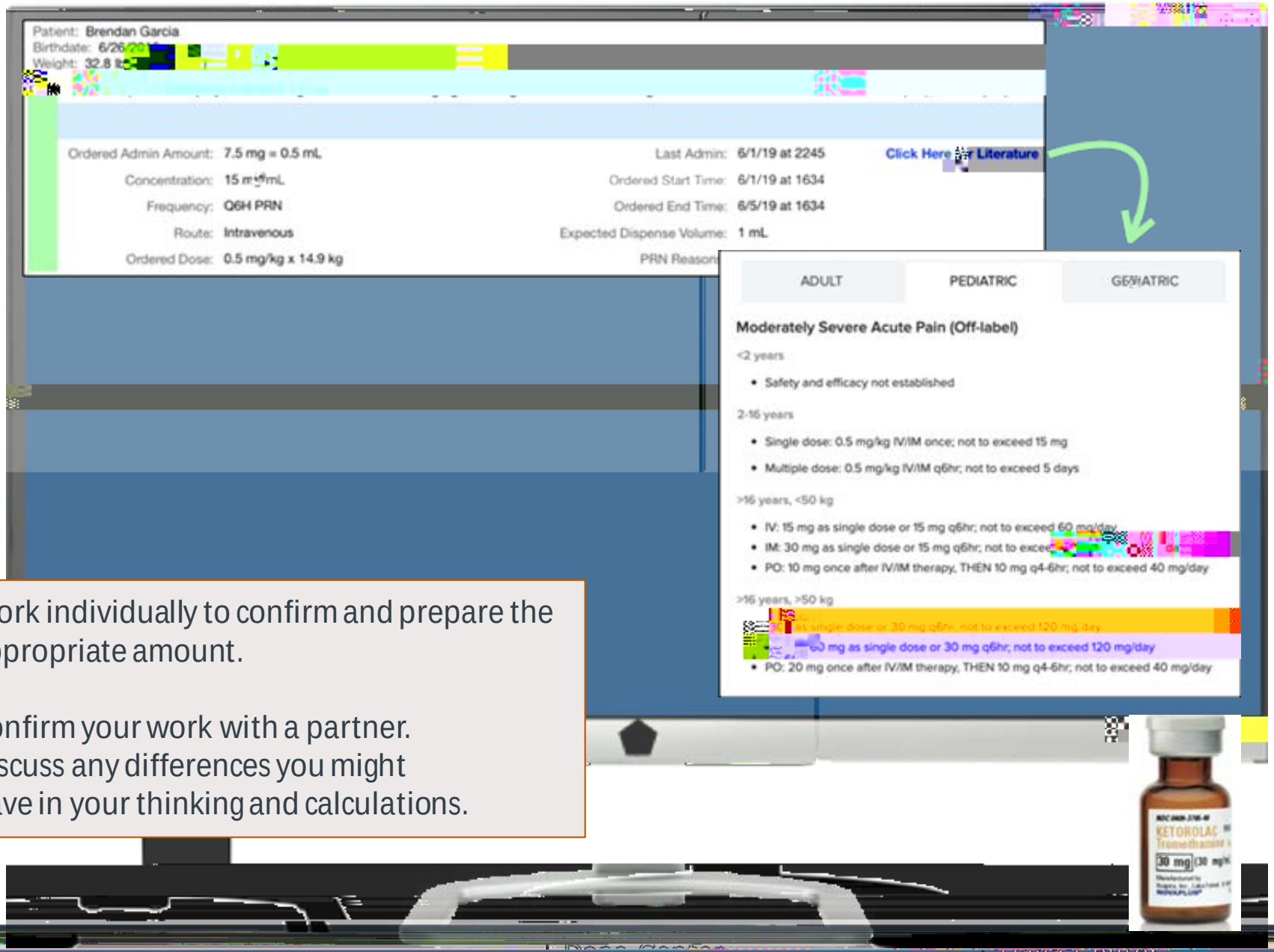

CLEARLINK Systen
Male Luer Lock Adapter

500 mL
B BRAUN

500 mL
B BRAUN

500 mL
B BRAUN

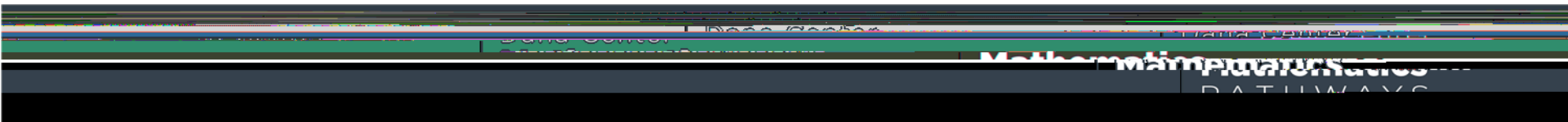




Work individually to confirm and prepare the appropriate amount.

Confirm your work with a partner.
Discuss any differences you might have in your thinking and calculations.

(Dyjur, Rankin, & Lane, 2011; p. 206)



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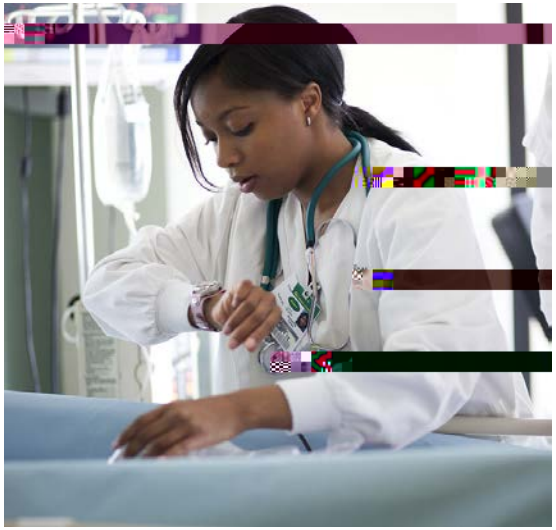

Station #8

Order: enoxaparin injection 15 mg, Subcutaneous, EVERY 12 HOURS

Questions:

1. Convert lb – kg _____ kg
2. Is this ordered dose safe? 0.5 mg/kg/DOSE _____
3. What [illegible] _____
4. What size needle would you use? ____ g ____ inch
5. Where would you administer? _____
6. How many mL will you administer? 300 mg/3 mL _____ mL
7. [illegible] n syringe and practice administering

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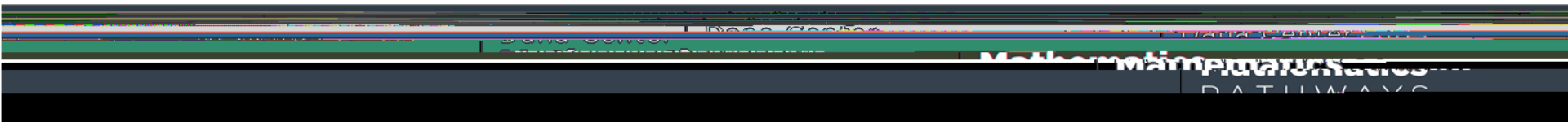
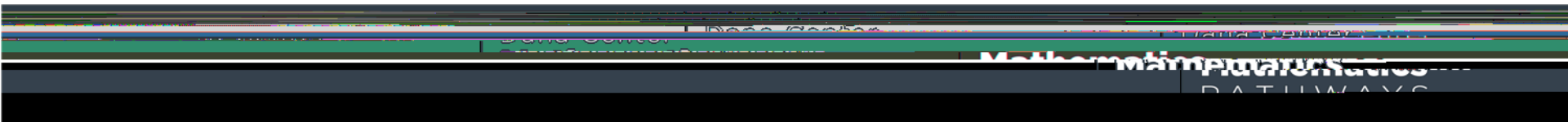
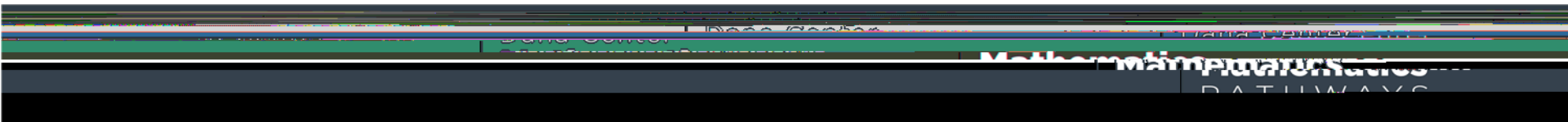
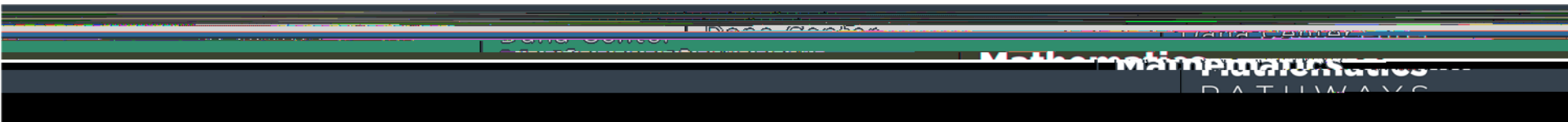
Goal- safe medication administration
Bridge the theory-practice gap
Inclusive environment
Individual accountability









awendel2@pacollege.edu

jm532@drexel.edu

dozimek2@pacollege.edu

gpmurphy@pacollege.edu