

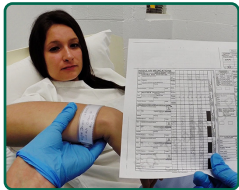


Subcutaneous Injection



1 Preparing for the procedure

- a. Perform hand hygiene.
- b. Check order with approved clinician ensuring right patient, drug, dose, route, time, documentation and clinical indication.
- c. Explain procedure to the patient and obtain verbal consent.
- d. Check 3 separate identifiers and confirm allergy status of patient.
- e. Perform hand hygiene and put on non-sterile gloves.
- f. Select injection site.
- g. Cleanse skin thoroughly using alcohol wipe and allow to dry.
- h. Hold syringe and needle hub between thumb and forefinger and remove cap.



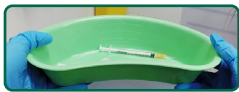
2 Performing the procedure

- a. Hold skin taut between thumb and index fingers.
- b. Hold syringe like a dart between thumb and forefinger.
- c. Quickly insert needle at either 45 or 90 degree angle.
- d. Push on plunger to slowly inject medication.
- e. Withdraw needle at same angle of insertion.
- f. Return syringe and needle to medication tray.
- g. Dry area with cotton ball or gauze square.



3 Disposing of equipment

- a. Ensure needle/syringe and ampoule are safely discarded into sharps container.



4 Documentation

- a. Document all relevant information including site used.



5 Additional information

- a. The amount of subcutaneous tissue and the length of the needle must be taken into consideration when choosing angle of the insertion.
- b. If patient is thin, grasp fold of skin between your thumb and index finger.
- c. Do not use alcohol wipe to prepare skin for insulin injections.



References

Smith S, Duell D, Martin B. Clinical Nursing Skills: Basic to Advanced Skills. 8th ed. New Jersey: Pearson Education 2012.

Tollefson J. Clinical Psychomotor Skills: Assessment Tools for Nursing Students. 5th ed. Melbourne: Cengage Learning Australia; 2012.

World Health Organization. Glove Use Information Leaflet [Internet]. 2009 [updated 2009 Aug; cited 2014 May 22]. Available from: http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_Information_Leaflet.pdf.

World Health Organization. WHO best practices for injections and related procedures toolkit [Internet]. 2010 [updated 2010 Mar; cited 2014 May 22]. Available from: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241599252_eng.pdf.

Support for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Office for Learning and Teaching.

Background

Some medications are delivered by subcutaneous injection. Site rotation is a important consideration. Checking that the medication order is current and legal and that the five rights are adhered to prior to administration is essential to ensure the patient is kept safe..

Equipment required

- Hand sanitiser
- Medication tray
- Alcohol swab
- Syringe of closest capacity to hold medication
- 25 -27 gauge needle
- Cotton ball or gauze squares
- Non-sterile gloves (if necessary)
- Sharps container
- Medication ampoule
- Medication chart

Please visit the website for more videos and additional information.



<http://expertinmypocket.com.au>