



ADMINISTERING MEDICATION VIA SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION

SUPPLIES:

- Prefilled medication syringe
- Needle (25 gauge)
- Sterile 2x2 gauze pad
- Alcohol wipes
- Sharps container

PROCEDURE:

1. Gather supplies and equipment. Clean work area.
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. Assemble the syringe and needle as instructed by your nurse. If your medication syringe comes prefilled, the needle may already be attached to the syringe and ready for use. If the needle is not attached, attach it now as directed by your nurse.
4. Select a new site on your thigh, abdomen, or back of the upper arm.
5. Beginning at the center of the chosen site, disinfect the skin with an alcohol wipe, 3 inches in diameter.
6. Carefully remove the protective cap covering the needle on the syringe, maintaining asepsis.

NOTE: The exposed needle is sterile. Use caution to not touch the needle or allow it to touch a surface which is not sterile.

7. Gently pinch the skin surrounding the site you disinfected.
8. Using a swift darting motion, insert the needle at a 45-90 degree angle into the skin fold.
9. (This insures that the tip of the needle is in the subcutaneous tissue, **not** in the skin layer.)
10. Pull back slightly on the plunger of the syringe, checking for any blood visible in the syringe.

NOTE: If blood is visible, pull the syringe and needle back slightly and recheck by gently pulling back on the plunger again. No visible blood indicates that the needle is not in a blood vessel, and you may proceed with injection.



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If blood is still visible after you have pulled the syringe and needle back, you should remove the needle completely and start over. Repeat step 4 by preparing a new syringe and new site.

11. Inject the medication by pushing on the plunger.
12. When the syringe is empty, remove the needle from the subcutaneous site.
13. Cover the injection spot with gauze pad. Apply light pressure, but do not rub the injection site.
14. Discard the syringe and needle into the sharps container and discard used supplies in appropriate receptacles.
15. Perform hand hygiene.