

INJECTIONS – INTRAMUSCULAR

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Clinical Indications: When medication administration is necessary and the medication must be given via IM route or as an alternative route in selected medications.
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Receive and confirm medication order or perform according to standing orders.
 - 3.2. Assure 6 rights: right drug, right dose, right patient, right time, right route, and right documentation.
 - 3.3. Prepare equipment and medication expelling air from the syringe.
 - 3.4. Explain the procedure to the patient and reconfirm patient allergies.
 - 3.5. Intramuscular injection sites
 - 3.5.1. Arm
 - 3.5.1.1. Optimally, IM administration in arm would be no more than 1 ml
 - 3.5.1.2. Maximum volume for IM administration in arm is 2.5 ml
 - 3.5.2. Thigh/Buttock
 - 3.5.2.1. Optimally, IM administration in thigh/buttock would be no more than 2 ml
 - 3.5.2.2. Maximum volume for IM administration in thigh/buttock is 5 ml
 - 3.6. The thigh should be used for injections in pediatric patients and injection volume should not exceed 1 cc.
 - 3.7. Expose the selected area and cleanse the injection site with alcohol.
 - 3.8. Insert the needle into the skin with a smooth, steady motion at a 90 degree angle.
 - 3.9. Aspirate for blood
 - 3.10. Inject the medication.
 - 3.11. Withdraw the needle quickly and dispose of properly without recapping.
 - 3.12. Apply pressure to the site.
 - 3.13. Monitor the patient for the desired therapeutic effects as well as any possible side effects.
 - 3.14. Document the medication, dose, route, site, and time on the electronic Patient Care Record.