

Refresher on Vaccine Administration

Source: CDC, Dec 2011

Keep in mind this flu season: Proper vaccine administration is critical. All personnel who will administer vaccines including new and temporary staff should receive training and education in vaccine administration before providing vaccines to patients. Proper vaccine administration includes- assessing for needed vaccines, screening for contraindications and precautions, educating patients regarding the vaccine, appropriate documentation as well as proper injection technique.

With so many people receiving flu vaccine this season, be sure that you know the proper injection practices for administering flu vaccines. Flu vaccine given by intramuscular (IM) injection should be administered to older children and adults in the thickest part of the deltoid muscle in the lateral upper arm. Giving the injection too low or too high can result in injection too close to the bone or joint. Needle length **also** is important, and depends on the age and weight of the patient. The Institute of Medicine recently released a report in August on the Adverse Effects of Vaccines Evidence and Causality. They evaluated the risk of deltoid bursitis after intra-muscular vaccination and found that injection of a vaccine could lead to deltoid bursitis.

Most people receiving flu shots have no problems at all. Nevertheless, CDC encourages health care providers to remain committed to quality care and diligent in eliminating potential medical errors.

As a refresher for healthcare providers on correct vaccine administration technique, please consult these resources:

This guidance can help you from the Pink Book:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/D/vacc_admin.pdf

Quick Fact Sheet: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3085.pdf>

Vaccine Administration Videos

APhA Vaccine Administration Technique video www.pharmacist.com/imz (*scroll down to Immunization Administration*)

IAC: Vaccine Administration Technique video: <http://www.immunize.org/dvd/>

Other References

Institute of Medicine citation: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=13164#toc

To Report adverse events: <http://vaers.hhs.gov/index>