

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-13 SUNCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS

Policy:

- To establish guidelines for subcutaneous administration of medications.

Equipment:

- Gloves and appropriate PPE
- Syringe (large enough to accommodate the required amount of medication).
 - Or prepackaged syringe with medication and needle for injection.
- Safety needle for injection:
 - 5/8 inch and 25 gauge preferred
- Safety needle for withdrawal of medication:
 - 1 inch and 18 gauge preferred
- Antiseptic cleaning solution.
- 4X4 gauze pads
- Medication to be given.

Procedure:

- Don PPE
- Assemble all necessary equipment.
- Check medication for the six rights of medication administration as well as:
 - Expiration date.
 - Seal leakage.
 - Contamination.
 - Abnormal color.
- Confirm order – dosage by writing it down.
- Ascertain if patient has an allergy to the medication that you are to administer.
- Explain the medication administration procedure to the patient.
- Advise patient of effects and possible side effects.
- Draw up the medication into the syringe.
- Choose a site for injection:
 - Subcutaneous injections are administered in an area where blood vessels are not near the surface:
 - The areas commonly used are the upper part of the arms and the thighs.
- Prepare the site for injection:
 - Cleanse with the antiseptic cleansing solution:
 - Start with a small area and wipe in widening circles around the site to be punctured.
- Insert the needle at a 30 degree angle to the skin.
- Gently aspirate the syringe to be sure you are not in a blood vessel.
 - If blood return is noticed:
 - Withdraw the syringe and needle.
 - Apply light pressure to the area.
 - Dispose of the syringe-medication-needle into an approved puncture resistant biohazard container and begin again.

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- Remove the syringe and needle.
 - DO NOT RECAP THE NEEDLE:
 - Dispose of the syringe-medication-needle into an approved puncture resistant biohazard container.
- Apply pressure to the site with 4x4 gauze
- Monitor the patient for desired therapeutic effects.
- Monitor the patient for potential complications.

Documentation:

- Who performed task.
- PPE and equipment used.
- Name, concentration – dosage of medication.
- Any complications or undesired side effects.
- Were desired therapeutic effects attained?
- Time medication was administered.