

# Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

## II-13 SUNCUTANEOUS ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS

1. Policy:
  - 1.1. To establish guidelines for subcutaneous administration of medications.
2. Equipment:
  - 2.1. Gloves.
  - 2.2. Syringe (large enough to accommodate the required amount of medication).
    - 2.2.1. Or prepackaged syringe with medication and needle for injection.
  - 2.3. Needle for injection:
    - 2.3.1. 5/8 inch and 25 gauge.
  - 2.4. Needle for withdrawal of medication:
    - 2.4.1. 1 inch and 18 gauge.
  - 2.5. Antiseptic cleaning solution.
  - 2.6. 4X4.
  - 2.7. Medication to be given.
3. Procedure:
  - 3.1. Put on gloves.
  - 3.2. Assemble all necessary equipment.
  - 3.3. Check medication for:
    - 3.3.1. Correct medication.
    - 3.3.2. Correct concentration – dose.
    - 3.3.3. Expiration date.
    - 3.3.4. Seal leakage.
    - 3.3.5. Contamination.
    - 3.3.6. Abnormal color.
  - 3.4. Confirm order – dosage by writing it down.
  - 3.5. Ascertain from the patient if he/she has an allergy to the medication that you are to administer.
  - 3.6. Explain the medication administration procedure to the patient.
  - 3.7. Advise patient of effects and possible side effects.
  - 3.8. Draw up the medication into the syringe.
  - 3.9. Choose a site for injection:
    - 3.9.1. Subcutaneous injections are administered in an area where nerves and blood vessels are not near the surface:
    - 3.9.2. The areas commonly used are the upper part of the arms and the thighs.
  - 3.10. Prepare the site for injection:
    - 3.10.1. Cleanse with the antiseptic cleansing solution:
      - 3.10.1.1. Start with a small area and wipe in widening circles around the site to be punctured.
  - 3.11. Insert the needle at a 30 degree angle to the skin.
  - 3.12. Gently aspirate the syringe to be sure you are not in a blood vessel. If blood return is noticed:
    - 3.12.1. Withdraw the syringe and needle.
    - 3.12.2. Apply light pressure to the area.
    - 3.12.3. Dispose of the syringe-medication-needle into a provided puncture resistant biohazard container and begin again.

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(continued)

- 3.13. Remove the syringe and needle.
    - 3.13.1. DO NOT RECAP THE NEEDLE:
      - 3.13.1.1. Dispose of the syringe-medication-needle into a provided puncture resistant biohazard container.
  - 3.14. Apply pressure to the site with a 4X4.
  - 3.15. Monitor the patient for desired therapeutic effects.
  - 3.16. Monitor the patient for potential complications.
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4. Documentation:
    - 4.1. Who performed task.
    - 4.2. PPE and equipment used.
    - 4.3. Name, concentration – dosage of medication.
    - 4.4. Any complications or undesired side effects.
    - 4.5. Were desired therapeutic effects attained?
    - 4.6. Time medication was administered.