



Amherst Fire District Procedure

Medication Administration

Clinical Indications:

- When medication administration is necessary and the medication must be given via the SQ or IM route or as an alternative route in selected medications.

Procedure:

Subcutaneous or Intramuscular

1. Assess for right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, right route.
2. Receive and confirm medication order or perform according to standing orders.
3. Prepare equipment and medication expelling air from the syringe.
4. Explain the procedure to the patient and reconfirm patient allergies.
5. The most common site for subcutaneous injection is the arm. Injection volume should not exceed 1 cc.
6. The possible injection sites for intramuscular injection include the arm, buttock and thigh.
7. Injection volume should not exceed 2 cc for the arm and not more than 3 cc in the thigh or buttock.
8. If more than one injection is required a different site should be utilized.
9. Reduction in injection volumes should be considered in smaller patients because of the inability of the muscle to accommodate large volumes of fluid.
10. The thigh should be used for injections in pediatric patients with injection volume not exceed 1 cc.
11. Expose the selected area and cleanse the injection site with alcohol.
12. Insert the needle into the skin with a smooth, steady motion
 - a. SQ: 45 degree angle – skin pinched
 - b. IM: 90 degree angle – skin flattened
13. Aspirate for blood, **if blood present, start over**, if not continue to step 14.
14. Inject the medication.
15. Withdraw the needle quickly and dispose of properly without recapping.
16. Apply pressure to the site.
17. Monitor the patient for the desired therapeutic effects as well as any possible side effects.
18. Document the medication, dose, route, and time on/with the patient care report (PCR).

Intravenous

1. Follow #'s 1-4 under subcutaneous or intramuscular procedure.
2. Cleanse the injection port selected on the IV line with an alcohol prep pad.
3. Connect the luer lock on the syringe to the port on the IV.
4. Push the medication at the proper rate according to protocol.
5. Flush the medication through the line according to protocol.

IV Piggy Back

1. Follow #'s 1-4 under subcutaneous or intramuscular procedure.
2. Prepare piggy back according to manufacturer's procedures. (mixing medication, spiking bag or bottle)
3. Connect piggy back medication to cleaned medication port. (Cleaned with alcohol prep pad)

Certification Requirements:

1. Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure.