

## C-160 Insulin Syringe Preparation

### Purpose

Prepare correct amount of insulin for clients who are unable to draw up insulin due to functional or visual deficits.

Promote client independence in the home setting where there is no available caregiver.

Teach the client how to store and manage pre-filled syringes.

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment/Supplies

- Insulin per physician orders.
- Insulin syringes.
- Alcohol wipes.
- Sharps container.

### Procedure

1. Gather equipment.
2. Explain the procedure to the client.
3. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing Procedure.
4. Draw up the prescribed amount of insulin in syringes for the required number of days. (*Refer to procedure for drawing up medications from vials and ampules.*)
5. Client instructions:
  - a. Keep pre-filled syringes in the refrigerator.
  - b. Never store the syringes with the needle down as crystals may form in the needle.
  - c. Roll the syringe between the palms of hands to mix before administering to mix insulin.
  - d. Administer the insulin at room temperature. It should be removed from the refrigerator an hour before time to take insulin.
  - e. Place used needles/syringe in sharps container.
6. Review diabetic management routines including blood sugar levels and diet.

- Clean and replace equipment.

**Documentation Guidelines**

Document in the clinical record.

- Procedure performed.
- Number of syringes that are pre-filled.
- Compliance with administration.
- Reason nurse needed to pre-fill syringes.
- Instruction provided and client response.

**Related Procedures**

Sub Q Injections, Drawing Up Medications, Medication Administration

**Policy History**

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