

F-130 Preparing Injections from Ampules and Vials

Purpose

Prepare medications for the injection of medications.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

- Ampule or vial of medication.
- Syringe and needle or needleless access device.
- Alcohol prep pad.
- Sharps container.
- Small gauze pad – optional (for ampules only).
- Diluent - normal saline or sterile water (for vials only).

Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Connect needle to syringe if not already prepared in packaging.
3. Ampule preparation:
 - a. Tap top of ampule with finger to move medication below neck of ampule.
 - b. Place gauze pad or unwrapped alcohol prep pad around neck of ampule.
 - c. Snap quickly and firmly away to break at neck of ampule.
 - d. Hold ampule at an angle or set on flat surface.
 - e. Pick up syringe and remove needle cap.
 - f. Insert needle into ampule opening. *Do not allow needle to touch outside of ampule as the needle will then be considered contaminated.*
 - g. Gently pull back on syringe plunger to aspirate medication into syringe. You may need to tip ampule to obtain all of medication. *Keep needle tip below surface of the medication.*
 - h. Hold syringe with needle pointing up to express air bubbles.
 - i. Tap side of syringe to bring bubbles up toward the needle.
 - j. Pull back slightly on plunger, and then expel air. *Be careful not to eject the medication.*

- k. Recheck medication dose in syringe. Dispose of excess medication in syringe into the sink.
- l. Change needle if medication is on the needle shaft.
- m. Dispose of supplies according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy. Dispose of ampule and any used needles in sharps container.
- n. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.

4. Vial preparation:

- a. Remove metal cap on top of vial to expose rubber seal.
- b. Cleanse rubber seal with alcohol prep pad.
- c. Pick up syringe and remove needle cap.
- d. Draw necessary amount of air into syringe by pulling back on plunger. *The amount of air should equal the volume of medication needed.*
- e. Place the vial of medication on a flat surface and insert tip of needle through the center of the rubber seal. Aim straight down.
- f. Inject air into vial.
- g. Hold onto plunger and invert vial. Position vial between thumb and middle fingers on non-dominant hand.
- h. Grasp end of syringe and plunger with thumb and forefinger of dominant hand.
- i. Position needle tip below the fluid level.
- j. Allow medication to flow into syringe (air pressure). Pull back slightly on plunger if necessary until desired amount is obtained.
- k. Tap side of syringe to bring bubbles up toward the needle.
- l. Pull back slightly on plunger, and then expel air. *Do not eject fluid.*
- m. Remove syringe from vial. Change needle before administration. Needle may be dulled.
- n. If multi-dose vial, label with date and drug concentration.
- o. Dispose of supplies.
- p. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

5. Reconstituting Medication:

- a. Remove metal caps from medication vial and diluent.
- b. Cleanse both with alcohol prep pad.
- c. Draw up diluent following steps 4 c-p.
- d. Insert tip of needle into medication vial. Inject diluent into vial.
- e. Mix medication thoroughly.

- f. Draw up reconstituted medication. Verify dose to be given.
 - g. Dispose of supplies.
 - h. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.
6. Proceed to administer medication per appropriate procedure.

Related Procedures

None

Policy History

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