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## F-160 Intradermal Injections

### Purpose

Perform skin testing (i.e., allergy tests and tuberculin screening).

### Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

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

### Equipment/Supplies

- 1ml tuberculin syringe with 1/2 inch, 26- or 27-gauge needle.
- Alcohol prep pads.
- Vial or ampule of skin test solution.
- Disposable gloves.
- Sharps container and disposal bag.

### Procedure

1. Wash hands. Refer to the Hand Washing procedure.
2. Prepare the syringe:
  - a. Withdraw slightly more than the prescribed amount of medication into the syringe. *Only small amounts of medication (0.01 to 0.1 ml) are injected intradermally.*
  - b. Hold syringe upright and tap lightly.
  - c. Expel air and one drop of solution.
  - d. Verify that the prescribed amount of medication remains in the syringe.
3. Don clean gloves.
4. Assist the client into a comfortable position with elbow and forearm extended and supported on a flat surface.
5. Identify injection site. *The preferred site is on the volar or dorsal surface of the left forearm, about four inches below the elbow.*
6. Apply swab at the center of the site and rotate outward in a circular motion about two inches. Cleanse the injection site with an alcohol swab and allow to dry thoroughly.
7. Remove needle cap from the needle and place syringe between the thumb and forefinger of the dominant hand.

8. With the bevel side up, insert the needle slowly under the first one or two layers of skin until resistance is met.
9. Slowly inject the medication. *You should feel resistance. If not, the needle is too deep. Remove the needle and begin again.*
10. A firm, white wheal or bubble about 6 - 10 mm in diameter should appear on the skin's surface at the injection site. *A wheal or bubble indicates that the medication is in the dermis.*
11. Withdraw needle while applying the alcohol swab gently over the injection site. *Do not massage the site.*
12. Dispose of syringe and needle in sharps container.
13. Draw a circle around the perimeter of the injection site.
14. Remove gloves and dispose of supplies according to the Agency Waste Disposal Policy.
15. Wash hands. Refer to Hand Washing procedure.

**Documentation Guidelines**

Document in the clinical record:

1. Medication name, dose, route, date and time administered.
2. Injection site. Document reaction (positive or negative) for skin testing.
3. Report adverse reactions to physician.

**Related Procedures**

None.

**Policy History**

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