INTRAMUSCULAR MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

IM Administration Sites

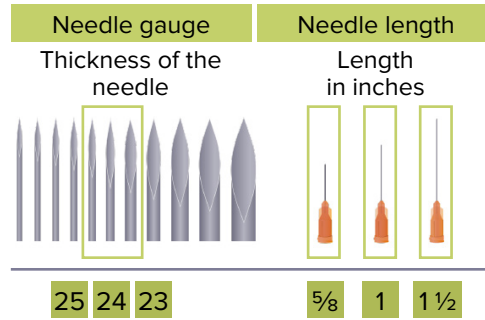| Deltoid	Vastus lateralis and rectus femoris	Dorsogluteal	Ventrogluteal
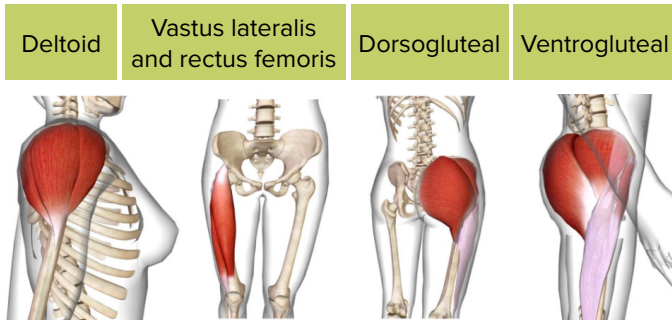
Site should be selected based on client's body type.
Avoid injecting into burns, infections, or other skin lesions.

Most common:
- Adult clients: deltoid
- Pediatric clients: vastus lateralis

Syringe Selection

1–3 mL syringe should be used depending on amount of medication to be injected.

Needle Selection

Needle gauge	Needle length
Thickness of the needle	Length in inches

25 24 23	⅝ 1 1½

Gauge: The higher the gauge, the lower the diameter. The larger the diameter, the faster the medication will be administered. Consider amount of medication to be delivered when choosing gauge. 23–25 gauges are most common.

Length: Clients with more subcutaneous fat may need a longer needle length based on administration site. The most commonly used lengths are ⅝ inch for pediatric clients and 1 inch for adults.

Blunt Fill vs. Blunt Filter Needles

Blunt fill needles: used for drawing medicines out of any sealed container

Blunt filter needles: have an extra filter, which filters out solid particles from the liquid; use with any medication in a glass ampule or medications mixed from powdered form

⚠️ *Never inject client with the same needle used to draw up medication.*
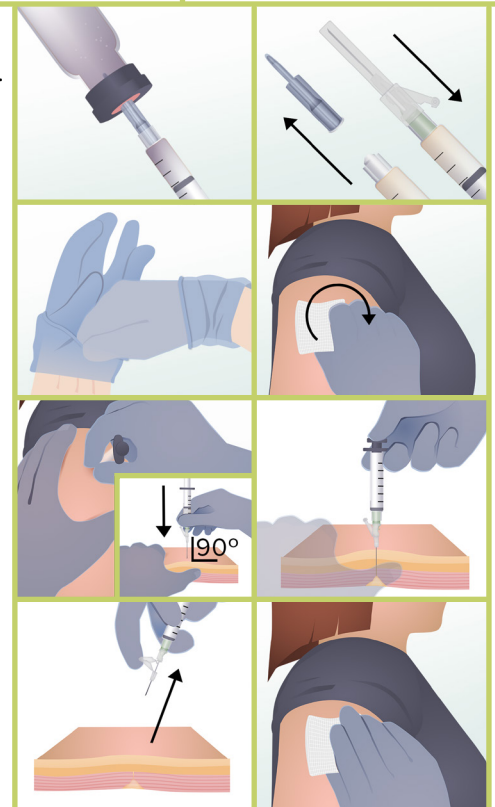
Procedure

Supplies

Medication

1–3 mL Syringe

Needle of appropriate size

Antiseptic pads

Gauze pad

1. Verify medication using seven Rights of Administration.
2. Draw up medication using filter or blunt tip needle.
3. Detach filter or blunt tip needle, replace cover, apply injection needle to syringe.
4. Apply gloves.
5. Expose the administration site and clean with an antiseptic pad in a circular motion.
6. Remove the needle sheath.
7. Position syringe at a 90-degree angle.
8. Quickly and smoothly insert the needle into the muscle.
9. If no blood is aspirated (for dorsogluteal sites only), slowly inject the medication into the muscle.
10. After 10 seconds, withdraw the syringe and activate the safety.
11. Place gauze over injection site and apply pressure for a few seconds.
12. Remove gauze and check for bleeding or bruising.

NOTES