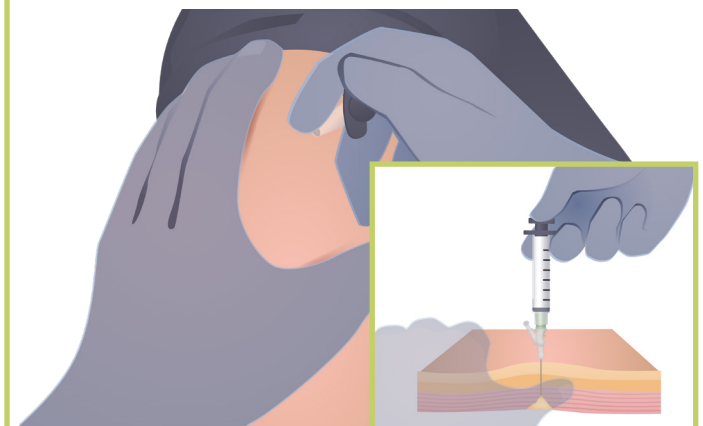
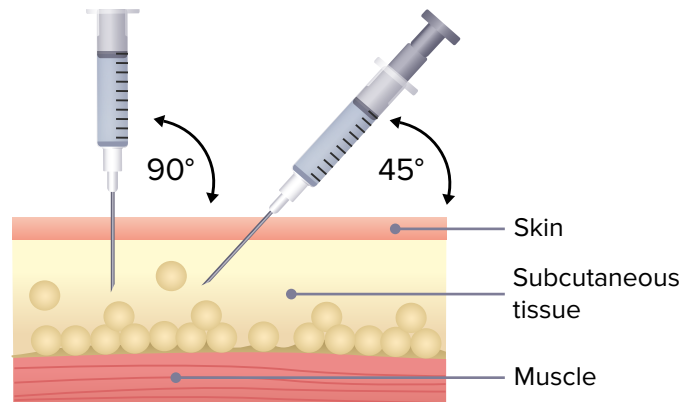


SUBCUTANEOUS MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION



Anatomical sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lateral aspect upper arm • Abdomen • Anterior upper thighs • Upper back
Needle size/angle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on client size • Gauge from 25 to 31 • Length from ½ inch to ⅝ inch • 90-degree angle for normal-size or obese adult (instruction for self-administration of subcutaneous medication by client into abdomen may need to be at 90-degree angle) • 45-degree angle for thin adult or child

Subcutaneous injection angle



Procedure

1. Introduce yourself to client.
2. Explain procedure to client.
3. Check allergies, assess for contraindications.
4. Perform hand hygiene.
5. Apply clean gloves.
6. Position client, select site for injection.
7. Clean site with alcohol swab (firm circular motion).
8. Allow skin to dry.
9. Remove needle cap.
10. Withdraw medication from vial.
11. Pinch area selected for injection.
12. Hold syringe in dominant hand.
13. Insert needle at the appropriate angle (40- or 90-degree).
14. Inject medication slowly.
15. Withdraw needle at the same angle.
16. Apply pressure with sterile gauze gently.
17. Do not massage site of injection.
18. Do not recap needle.
19. Apply safety mechanism.
20. Dispose of needle in sharps container.
21. Remove gloves.
22. Perform hand hygiene.

CLINICAL TIPS:

High-alert medications administered subcutaneously

Heparin injection	Insulin injection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check correct amount. • Do not massage site of injections, contributes to formation of hematoma. • Subcutaneous solution is less concentrated than intravenous. • Do not store near insulin. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check correct type and amount. • Use insulin syringe to administer medication. • Insulin syringes come in 30, 50, and 100 units. • Do not store near heparin.

NOTES

