

## 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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