

## Allergy Injection Administration Tips

When an allergy injection is given, a substance that the animal is allergic to is being administered into the body. The body begins building antibodies to fight this substance. As the dose is increased, the body continues to build more antibodies toward the offending allergen. It's a delicate balance. Increasing the dose too slowly can delay progress toward enough antibodies to control allergy symptoms. Increasing the dose too fast can cause reactions to the shot itself.

**Allergy Injections should be given subcutaneously ONLY**  
**Use 1.0 ml tuberculin syringes, 3/8 to 1/2 inch, 25 to 27 gauge needle.**

### Filling the Syringe

- Clean the rubber stopper with an alcohol swab.
- Remove the syringe from the package. If the package is already open or has holes in it, throw the syringe away and get a new one.
- With the cover on the needle, pull back the plunger and draw air into the syringe. The amount of air should be the same as the amount of the dosage you are about to administer.
- Pull off the cover over the needle.
- Push the needle into the rubber stopper, and push the plunger so that the air goes into the vial.
- Keep the needle in the stopper as you turn the vial upside down.
- Be sure the end of the needle is in the liquid medicine as you pull back on the plunger. The medicine will drain into the syringe.
- Fill the syringe to the prescribed dose. If you get too much, push the plunger in and the medicine will go back into the vial. If you do not get enough, continue pulling on the plunger.
- Check for air bubbles in the syringe. Air bubbles take up room that should be filled with medicine.
- If there are air bubbles in the syringe, gently tap the syringe with the needle still in the stopper. The air bubbles will move to the top of the syringe. You can then push the plunger, and air will go back into the vial.
- Check to make sure the syringe is holding the right amount of the medicine. If not, push (for less medicine) or pull (for more medicine) on the plunger until you have the correct amount.
- Double check that you have the right amount of the medicine, and then pull the needle out of the vial.
- Recap the needle carefully so that the needle does not touch anything as you prepare the injection site.

### Preparing the Injection Site

- Clean the injection site with an alcohol swab. Start at the center of the site and wipe outward in a circular motion. The cleaned area should be about 2 inches across.

### Giving the Injection

Before you inject the medicine, be sure you have the right dose of medication and that you are giving it at the right time.

- Uncap the needle.
- Place your thumb and forefinger on either side of the injection site about two inches apart. Pinch up the skin.
- Insert the needle quickly into the pinched skin between your thumb and forefinger. The needle should enter at a 45-degree angle (slight angle).
- Use your wrist to inject the needle. Sometimes the needle goes in easily. Some patients have tougher skin and a little more pressure or quickness must be used.
- Release the skin and hold the syringe in place.
- Once the needle is all the way in, push the plunger down slowly to inject the medicine.
- Remove the needle at the same angle you put it in.
- As you remove the needle from the insertion site, place an alcohol swab over the injection site.
- Gently press the alcohol swab against the injection site for a few seconds
- Dispose of the needle and syringe in appropriate container.