MUHC Reproductive Centre – Subcutaneous Injection of HCG



Before you start, assemble the supplies you will need for the injection:

medication
3 cc (ml) syringe
20G 1½ inch (yellow) needle
27G ½ inch (brown) needle
alcohol swab
gauze

To administer the medication you will have to prepare the medication, select and prepare the injection site, then finally inject the medication. **Begin by washing your hands.**

A. To Prepare the Medication:

- Remove the protective caps from the two vials (a powder and diluent or liquid), and use the alcohol swab to clean the rubber covering the
- vials. Allow to dry.

 2. Take the syringe out of its sterile wrapper, and then open the 20 G (yellow) needle and screw it onto the syringe (Use a new syringe and needle every day).
- Pull back on the syringe plunger (inner part) and draw up at least 1 cc (ml) of air.
- 4. Insert the needle into the bottle of diluent and inject the air into the bottle.
- 5. Keep the needle in the bottle and turn the bottle upside down. Hold the bottle straight up and confirm that the needle tip is submerged in liquid. Withdraw the amount of liquid as prescribed (see section E) take more than you need because you will always have some air bubbles mixed in that you will need to squirt back into the bottle.
- 6. With the needle still in the bottle, hold the bottle firmly and flick the syringe hard so that the bubbles move up to the surface. Then push on the plunger so that the bubbles and the extra fluid move up into the

- bottle. Keep pushing on the plunger until you have exactly **the amount of diluent (liquid) needed** remaining in the syringe. Withdraw the needle from the bottle.
- 7. Inject the diluent (liquid) into the vial of powder and swirl until the medication turns clear this may take a few minutes.
- Turn the vial upside down and withdraw the amount of prepared medication as prescribed (see section E).
 Be sure that the needle tip is always within the medication fluid while doing this. Take the needle out of the bottle.
- 9. Recap the needle and remove the 20G (yellow) needle. Attach the new 27G (brown) needle.
- 10. Holding the syringe straight up, flick the syringe so that the bubbles move up to the surface and push gently on the plunger until you begin to see medication at the tip of the needle. Recap the needle to protect it until you are ready to give the injection.

B. To Select the Injection Site: (Select new site each day)

You will be injecting the medication deep into the subcutaneous tissue, which is the fat just beneath the skin. There are three major sites where you can inject:

- the back of the upper arm
- the abdomen (except for navel and waist)
- the outer side of the thigh (not too close to the groin or knee)

Be sure to avoid veins, moles, and scars

C. To Inject the Medication:

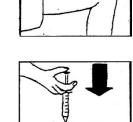
- 1. Swab the skin with the alcohol swab and allow the area to dry.
- 2. Uncap the needle and grasp the syringe like a pencil. With your other hand, pinch a fold of skin.
- 3. Gently insert the needle at a 90° angle straight into the skin. Be sure to insert the needle fully.

- Release your pinch and slowly inject the medication by pushing the plunger all the
- way.
 5. Wait 5 seconds and withdraw
- the needle, keeping the same angle as during the insertion.

 Apply gauze and firm
- Apply gauze and firm pressure to the injection site until any bleeding has stopped.

D. Discard the Used Syringe and Needles:

Discard the syringe into a plastic container that has a lid (you do not have to recap the needle before you discard it). Return the covered container to a pharmacy or the clinic.



E. How to Prepare and Administer HCG

If your dose is:

10,000 units → Put 1 ml of diluent (liquid) into the powder, mix well, withdraw and inject 1 ml.

5,000 units \rightarrow Put 1 ml of diluent (liquid) into the powder, mix well, withdraw and inject ½ ml (0.5 ml).

3,300 units → Put 3 ml of diluent (liquid) into the powder, mix well, withdraw and inject 1 ml.

2,500 units \rightarrow Put 2 ml of diluent (liquid) into the powder, mix well, withdraw and inject ½ ml (0.5 ml).

THIS INFORMATION IS INTENDED AS A GUIDELINE AND MAY NOT CONTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT ALL ASPECTS OF CARE