

Immunization Competencies for Nurses

*MODULE 4: ADMINISTRATION OF THE COVID-19
VACCINES*

Module Outline

CNO Medication Practice Standard

Pre-Immunization Procedures: Assessment

Pre-Immunization Procedures: Consent

Intramuscular Injection Technique

Post-Vaccination Teaching

Resources

Practice Standards

- ✓ The [College of Nurses of Ontario](#) provides practice standards for medication administration.
- ✓ The practice standard discusses the nurse's accountabilities and expectations with regards to medication practices.
- ✓ Adhering to this standard reduces errors.

Nurses prepare and administer medication(s) to clients in a safe, effective and ethical manner.

- ✓ Review: Medical Directive



College of Nurse of Ontario, Medication Standard, Revised 2015

Verify

the right **client**

the right **reason**

the right **frequency**

the right **site**

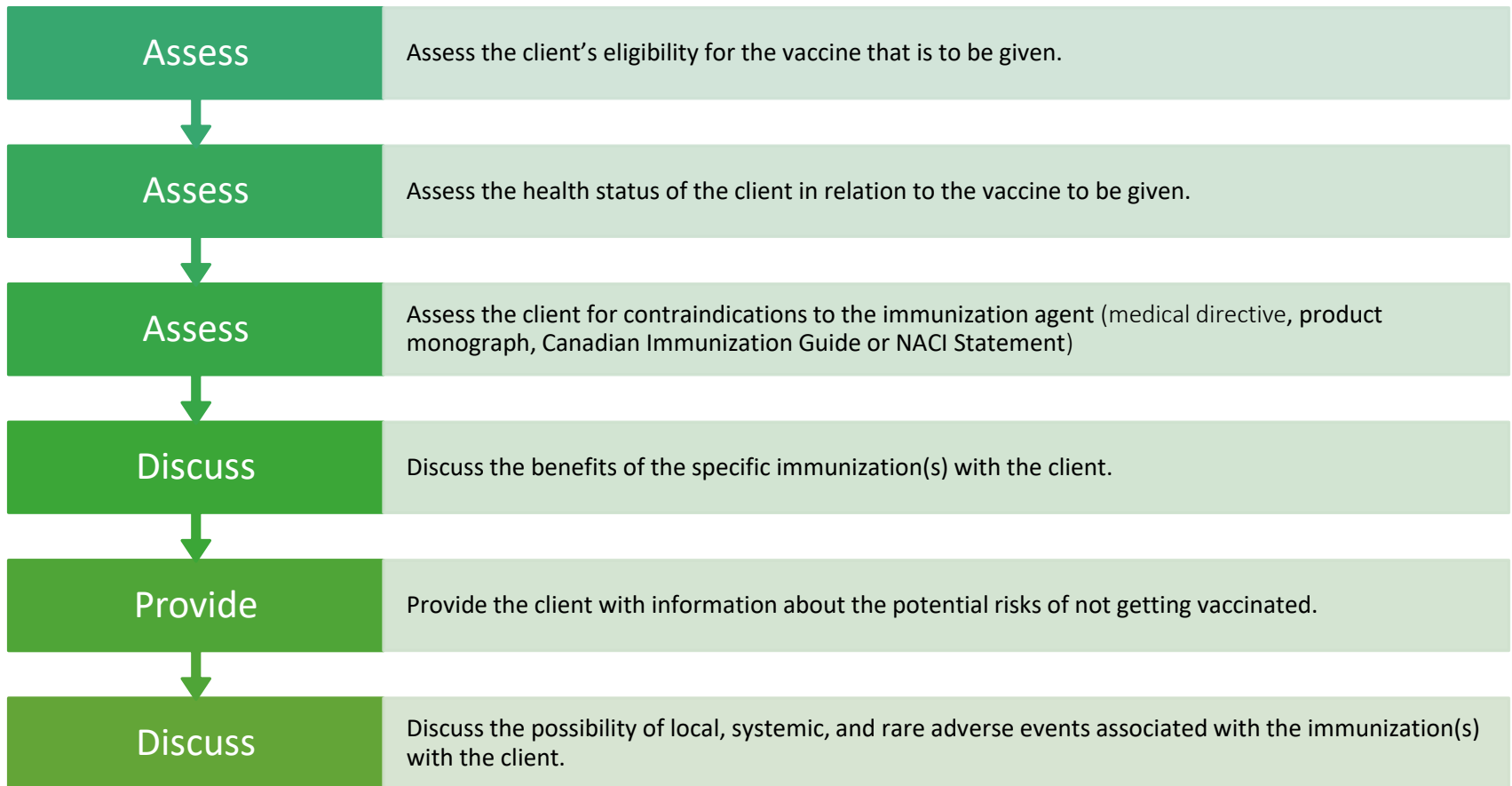
the right **medication**

the right **dose**

the right **route**

the right **time**

Pre-immunization Procedures: Assessment



Pre-immunization Procedures: Consent

Confirm

Confirm that the client has an understanding of the information that they have been provided.

Provide

Provide the client with the opportunity to ask questions, and provide answers. Confirm that the client consents to the immunization(s).

Ensure

Ensure the client or the parent/legal guardian has signed the consent form

- According to the CNO (2011), whoever requires informed consent for a procedure should also obtain the client's signature.



Capacity to Provide Consent

- ✓ The client must understand information and appreciate the foreseeable consequences of his/her decision.
- ✓ If a nurse has any doubts about informed consent or the medical condition of a client, consult with Coordinator (if after hours, contact supervisor on call).

Concept Check

- ✓ Nurses support clients in the informed decision-making process by providing current, relevant and evidenced based information to them.
- ✓ Nurses are responsible and accountable for safe medication administration which includes being aware of the benefits, risks, allergies, contraindications and precautions of each medication to be administered.

Practice Standards

✓ A nurse must consider the following **before** administering COVID-19 vaccine:

1. has informed consent been obtained?
2. is a medical directive in place?
3. is the nurse competent to deliver and manage the vaccine?
4. how will administration of the vaccine be documented?

Prevention of Anaphylaxis

- ✓ Screen client prior to immunization for possible allergy to vaccine or vaccine components.
- ✓ Ensure you know where the epinephrine kit is located and that it is complete.

Immunization Procedure

- ✓ Wash hands thoroughly.
- ✓ Lay out equipment for the injection on a clean disposable towel.
- ✓ Check that the vaccine on hand for the injection is correct.
- ✓ Check the expiry date.
- ✓ Inspect the appearance of the vaccine for irregularities (i.e. cloudiness, particles, discolouration).
- ✓ If the vaccine was pre-drawn, check the label on the syringe and the appearance of the vaccine in the syringe.

Route

- ✓ All COVID-19 Vaccines are administered intramuscularly (IM)
 - Adults and children* ≥ 1 year: deltoid muscle
 - Children* < 1 year: vastus lateralis muscle
 - *Note: COVID-19 Vaccines are not authorized for individuals under the age of 12 at this time

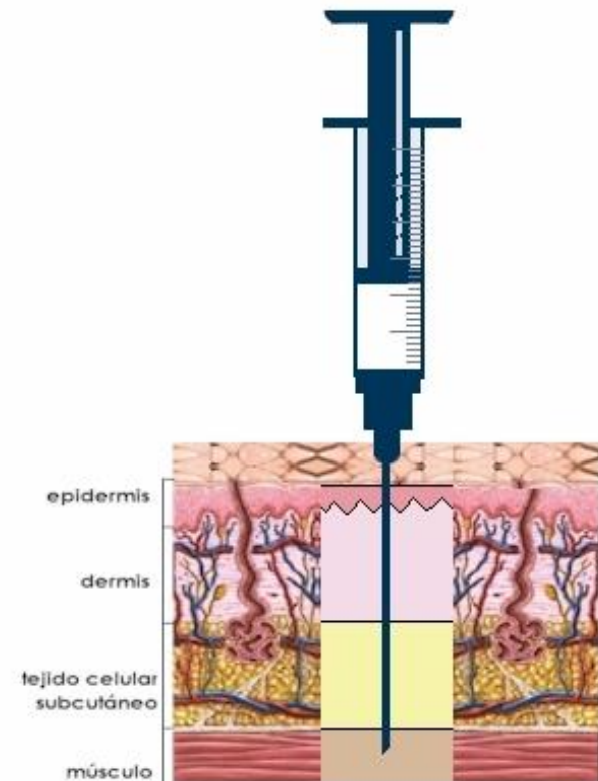
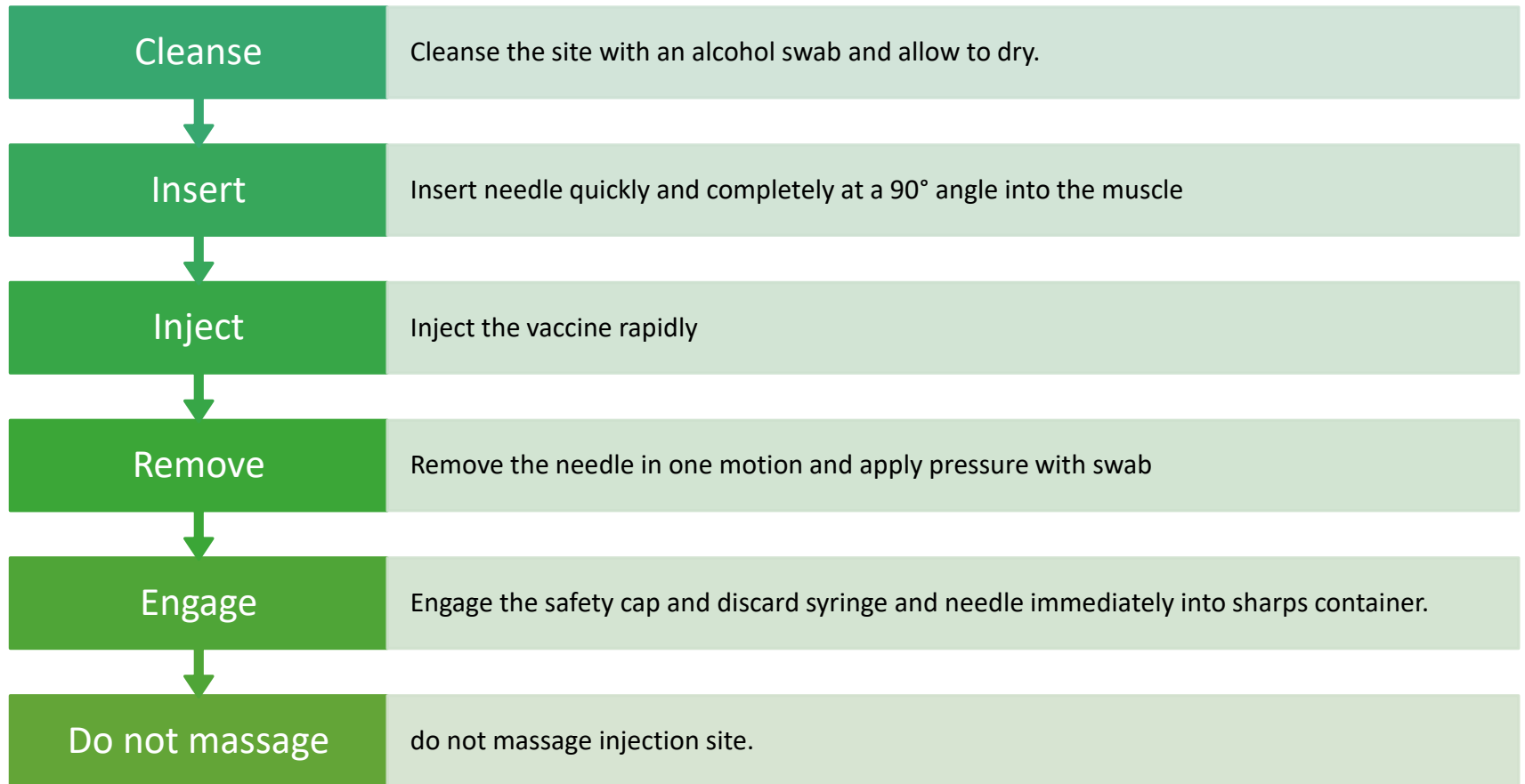


Figura 3.- Via intramuscular

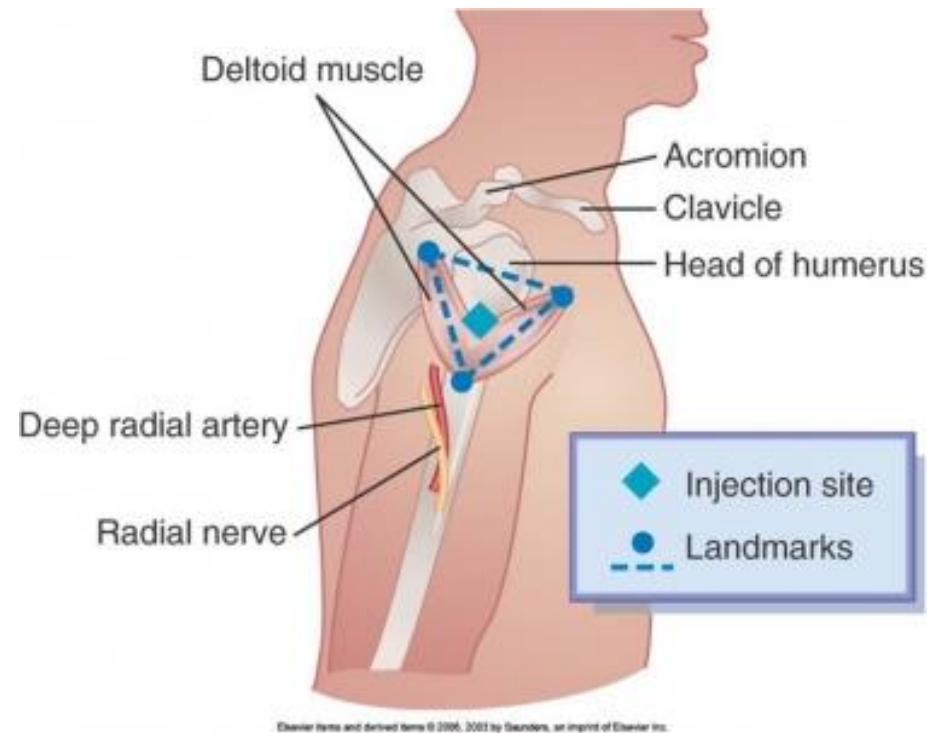


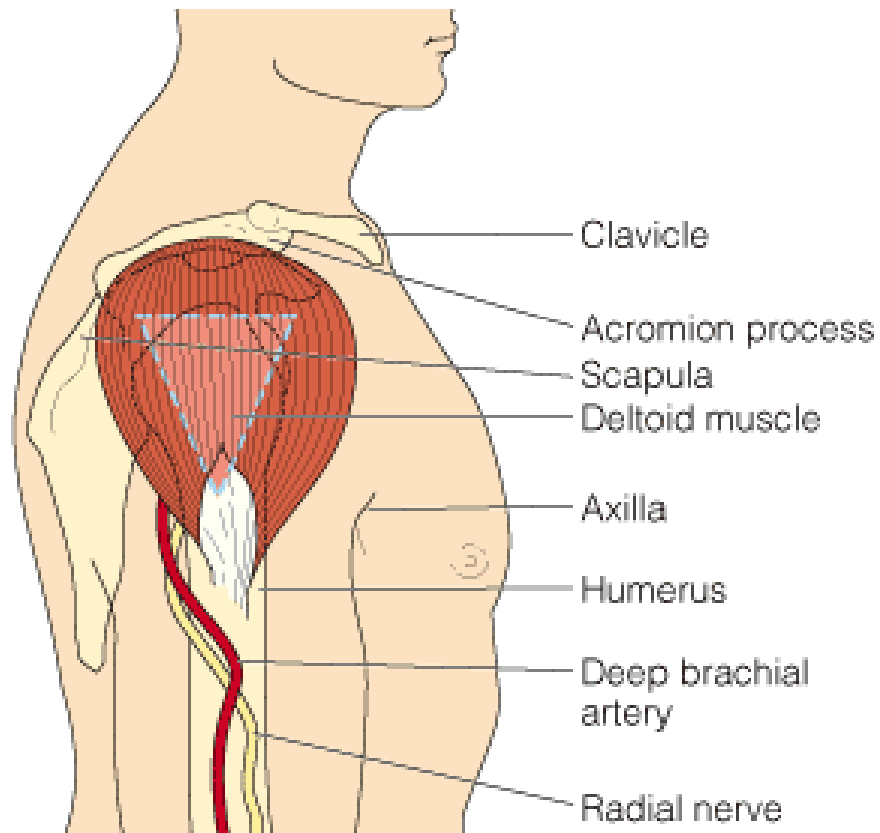
Procedure for IM injections



Intramuscular (IM) Injection: Adult

- ✓ Needle: 22-25 g, 1" or 1.5" length
- ✓ Site: Deltoid Muscle
- ✓ Measure down **three** fingers from the Acromion process
- ✓ Using your dominant hand, insert the needle quickly and completely at a 90 ° angle into the muscle





Observation Post-Immunization

- ✓ Keep vaccine recipients under supervision for at least 15 minutes.
- ✓ Document when a client chooses to leave prior to the end of the waiting period.
- ✓ In large clinics, post signs advising clients to wait for 15 minutes.
- ✓ See Module 5: Common Side Effects and Adverse Events for more information

Documentation

- ✓ Documentation for COVID-19 vaccination is done electronically on the Ministry of Health application called COVax.
 - ✓ For more information and training on COVax, please contact RCDHU.
- ✓ Documentation on paper is also possible on the back of the Ministry of Health consent form. The information will still need to be entered into COVax.
- ✓ Clients may also ask you to complete their personal immunization record. This is optional.
- ✓ Clients will receive a printed and/or email receipt of vaccination from the Ministry of Health, once their vaccine administration is added into COVax.

Practice Standard

- ✓ Nurses ensure that documentation presents an accurate, clear and comprehensive picture of the client's needs, the nurse's interventions and the client's outcomes.
- ✓ Nurses are accountable for ensuring their documentation of client care is accurate, timely and complete.
- ✓ Nurses safeguard client health information by maintaining confidentiality and acting in accordance with information retention and destruction policies and procedures that are consistent with the standard(s) and legislation.



College of Nurses of Ontario. Practice Standard: Documentation, 2008.

Resources

- ✓ [Medical Directive templates](#)
- ✓ [Vaccine administration practices: Canadian Immunization Guide](#)

References

1. College of Nurses of Ontario – Practice Standards
2. Canadian Immunization Guide

Quiz

1. What The type of injection for the COVID-19 vaccine is?
- A) Intramuscular
 - B) Subcutaneous
 - C) Intravenous
 - D) Intradermal

Quiz

2. What is the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine's authorized age for use?

- A) ≥ 12 years
- B) ≥ 14 years
- C) ≥ 16 years
- D) ≥ 18 years

Quiz

3. A medical directive is required and should be reviewed prior to administration of vaccine at a community clinic.

- A) True
- B) False

Quiz

4. Prior to administration of the vaccine, the nurse must assess:

- A) the client's eligibility for the vaccine that is to be given.
- B) the health status of the client in relation to the vaccine to be given.
- C) the client for contraindications to the immunization agent.
- D) All of the above.

Quiz

5. The steps the nurse should follow to ensure proper client consent prior to vaccination include:

- A) Confirm that the client has an understanding of the information that they have been provided.
- B) Provide the client with the opportunity to ask questions and provide answers. Confirm that the client consents to the immunization(s).
- C) Ensure the client or the parent/legal guardian has signed the consent form.
- D) All of the above.

Quiz

- ✓ 6. A nurse must consider the following **before** administering COVID-19 vaccine:
- A) has informed consent been obtained?
 - B) is a medical directive in place?
 - C) is the nurse competent to deliver and manage the vaccine?
 - D) how will administration of the vaccine be documented?
 - E) All of the above.
 - F) None of the above. The clinic lead is responsible for making sure everything is completed.

Quiz

7. The nurse must screen the client prior to immunization for possible allergy to vaccine or vaccine components and ensure they know where the epinephrine kit is located and that it is complete.

- A) True
- B) False

Quiz

8. If the vaccine was pre-drawn by someone else, there is no need to check the label on the syringe and the appearance of the vaccine in the syringe prior to administering the vaccine to the client.

- A) True
- B) False

Quiz

9. In adults, the deltoid muscle is located:

- A) in the upper arm, just above the elbow.
- B) in the upper thigh, midway between the knee and hip.
- C) in the upper arm, 3 fingers below the acromium process.
- D) Adults do not have a deltoid muscle.

Quiz

10. The nurse must document the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine:

- A) on the paper client's paper consent form.
- B) on the ministry application called COVax.
- C) documentation is not necessary at mass immunization clinics during a pandemic.
- D) either A or B.