

## Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

### **SUBJECT: IM VACCINE ADMINISTRATION TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES**

Per WAC 246-976-182 (1)(a)(iv) - Authorized care—Scope of practice. Certified EMS personnel are authorized to provide patient care when providing collaborative medical care in agreement with local, regional, or state public health agencies to control and prevent the spread of communicable diseases.

Washington State scope of practice allows some certified EMS providers to perform an intramuscular injection with MPD-approved specialized training. In compliance with Washington State's EMS scope of practice, it is the Department of Health's policy that an EMT, AEMT, or Paramedic may administer a vaccination under all the following conditions:

1. The EMS personnel have completed MPD-approved specialized training and have received approval from the MPD to perform the skill.
  - a. Per MPD, training will include onsite specific training for the approved vaccination event by a qualified healthcare provider approved by the Kittitas County Health Officer or their designee.
2. The EMS personnel are acting under the medical oversight and direction of the county MPD or an MPD delegate physician such as the local health officer and a department approved MPD protocol is in place.
3. The EMS personnel are affiliated with a licensed EMS service, and the EMS service is conducting the activity in agreement with local, regional, or state public health organizations to conduct community surveillance of infectious disease.
4. The vaccines are managed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal requirements.
5. Licensed EMS services who establish an in-house vaccine program must meet any applicable local, state, and federal requirements to do so and must have consulted with the Washington State Department of Health Office of Immunization and Child Profile. Per MPD, not currently approved for this protocol.

#### **Proper equipment**

- A. One alcohol wipe
- B. One sterile 2 x 2 gauze pad
- C. A new needle and syringe that are the correct size
- D. Hand sanitizer and new gloves for each patient
- E. Appropriate PPE

#### **Procedure**

- A. Wear appropriate PPE, gloves, eye protection and n95 or higher mask (mask per public health recommendation).
- B. Receive and confirm medication order and proper indication
- C. Evaluate for contraindications and precautions. For questions, contact MPD, MPD Delegate (Public Health Officer), or lead qualified healthcare provider approved by the Kittitas County Health Officer or their designee for the event.
- D. Prepare equipment and medication expelling air from the syringe.
- E. Explain the procedure to the patient and reconfirm patient allergies.
- F. Adult injection location
  - a. The most common site for subcutaneous injection is the arm.
    - i. Injection volume should not exceed 1 mL.

## Kittitas County Prehospital EMS Protocols

- b. The possible injection sites for intramuscular injections include the arm, buttock and thigh.
  - i. Injection volume should not exceed 1 mL for the arm
  - ii. Injection volume should not exceed 2 mL in the thigh or buttock.
- G. Pediatric injection location
  - a. The thigh should be used for injections in pediatric patients and injection volume should not exceed 1 mL.
- H. Expose the selected area and cleanse the injection site with alcohol.
- I. Insert the needle into the skin with a smooth, steady motion
  - a. SQ: 45-degree angle IM: 90-degree angle skin pinched skin flattened
- J. Aspirate for blood. If none, inject the medication.
- K. Withdraw the needle quickly and dispose of properly in a sharp container without recapping.
- L. Apply pressure to the site.
- M. Monitor the patient for the desired therapeutic effects as well as any possible side effects.

### Document

- A. Utilize the appropriate event reporting system, to include:
  - a. Date that the vaccine was administered
  - b. Route
  - c. Dose
  - d. Site
  - e. Manufacturer and Lot number
  - f. Publication date of the vaccine Information Statements (VIS)
  - g. Name and title of the person administering the vaccine.
- B. Identify and report any adverse reactions to vaccine administration as instructed by the Public Health Department representative.