

VACCINE POINTS

“Vaccine Points” is a bi-monthly communication distributed by the Hawaii Department of Health to all participating Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers.

Test your vaccine knowledge.

Question:

Which of the following is/are true regarding intramuscular (IM) administration of a vaccine? Select all that apply.

- a) Muscles of the buttock are not used for IM administration of vaccines in infants and children due to concern regarding potential injury to the sciatic nerve
- b) ACIP recommends aspiration prior to intramuscular administration of a vaccine
- c) A 5/8-inch needle is an appropriate size for a DTaP vaccination in the anterolateral thigh of an 18-month old child
- d) The two routinely recommended IM sites for administration of vaccines are the vastus lateralis muscle (anterolateral thigh) and the upper outer triceps of the arm
- e) For an IM injection, the needle should be inserted into the muscle at a 90° angle
- f) None of the above

<https://www2.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/vaxadmin/va/ce.asp>

Complete the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) self-paced, online educational program for more information about vaccine administration. Continuing Education credits are available with course completion.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/vac-admin.html>

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (Pink Book), 13th Edition

Source:

IM injection technique involves inserting the needle fully into the muscle at a 90° angle and injecting the vaccine into the muscle tissue.

The two routinely recommended IM sites for administration of vaccines are the vastus lateralis muscle (anterolateral thigh) and the deltoid muscle (upper arm).

For toddlers, the vastus lateralis muscle in the anterolateral thigh is preferred. The needle should be at least 1-inch long.

Because there are no large blood vessels in the two routinely recommended IM sites for administration of vaccines, aspiration before injection of vaccines is not necessary.

Injury to the sciatic nerve after injection of antimicrobial agents into the buttock is well documented, therefore muscles of the buttock are not used for administration of vaccines in infants and children.

e) For an IM injection, the needle should be inserted into the muscle at a 90° angle

a) Muscles of the buttock are not used for IM administration of vaccines in infants and children due to concern regarding potential injury to the sciatic nerve

Answer:

