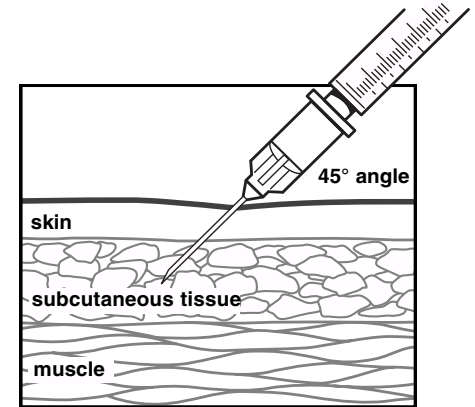


How to Administer Subcutaneous (SC) Injections

Administer these vaccines via subcutaneous (SC) route: MMR, varicella, meningococcal. Administer IPV and PPV23 either SC or IM.

Patient age	Site	Needle size	Needle insertion
Infants (birth to 12 mos. of age)	Fatty area of the thigh	5/8" to 3/4" needle, 23–25 gauge	<p>Pinch up on SC tissue to prevent injection into muscle.</p> <p>Insert needle at 45° angle to the skin.</p> <p>There are no data to document the necessity of aspiration.*</p> <p>Multiple injections given in the same extremity should be separated by a minimum of 1".</p> <p><small>*American Academy of Pediatrics. 2000 Red Book: Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases: p.18.</small></p>
Young children (12 to 36 mos. of age)	Fatty area of the thigh or outer aspect of upper arm (see both illustrations below)	5/8" to 3/4" needle, 23–25 gauge	
Older children (>36 mos. of age) and adults	Outer aspect of upper arm	5/8" to 3/4" needle, 23–25 gauge	



SC site for infants and young children in the anterolateral thigh

SC injection site area

Insert needle at a 45° angle into fatty area of anterolateral thigh. Make sure you pinch up on SC tissue to prevent injection into the muscle.

SC site for young children and adults in the outer aspect of the upper arm

acromion

SC injection site area

elbow

Insert needle at a 45° angle into outer aspect of upper arm. Make sure you pinch up on the SC tissue to prevent injection into the muscle.

Adapted by the Immunization Action Coalition courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Health
 Source: Immunization Action Coalition. Needle Tips, 2002; Vol.12(1):11.