

Epinephrine Single Dose Ampule Administration

OBJECTIVE: Demonstrate competency in using a single dose ampule of epinephrine 1:1000 for subcutaneous injection.

EQUIPMENT: Body substance isolation, single dose ampule, 2 x 2 gauze, alcohol wipes, container for contaminated material disposal.

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS: Given an appropriate scenario, the candidate will assist a patient with a single dose ampule in an allergic reaction emergency, following medical direction. All “critical criteria” must demonstrate 100% accuracy for acceptable performance.

Time limit: 4 minutes

Event	Does	Does Not
1. Takes or verbalizes body substance isolation precautions.		
2. Inspect the medication to make sure it is not abnormally discolored or cloudy and that it does not contain precipitates.		
3. Check label and expiration date on ampule.		
4. Select a syringe with a proper gauge filter needle. ➤ The average adult requires a 25 gauge needle.		
5. Wrap the neck of the ampule in an alcohol swab and snap off the top, directing the force away from your body.		
6. Remove cap on needle and keep the needles beveled tip below the solution as you pull back on the plunger and withdraw the prescribed amount of medication.		
7. Clear any air, and change the needle.		
8. Clean site with an alcohol swab.		
9. “Pinch-up” a large area of skin. ➤ Using a “darting action”, insert needle into the subcutaneous tissue at a 45 degree angle.		
10. Aspirate by gently pulling back on the plunger.		
11. Push plunger all the way down.		
12. Release the “pinched” skin.		
13. Pull needle straight out.		
CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE		
14. Wipe the site with a sterile 2x2 gauze if bleeding occurs and place a sterile band aid over the site.		
15. Record activity and time.		
16. Dispose of contaminated material in biohazard container.		

CRITICAL CRITERIA

- _____ Did not take or verbalize body substance isolation precautions
- _____ Did not obtain medical direction for authorization or verbalize standing orders
- _____ Did not check medication for cloudiness, discoloration, or expiration date
- _____ Did not use an appropriate injection site
- _____ Did not administer medication properly
- _____ Did not discard needles or contaminated material in an appropriate container

