

# How to Administer IM and SC Injections to Adults

## For Intramuscular (IM) Injections

### Vaccines administered via IM route:

Tetanus-diphtheria (Td), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and inactivated influenza are given IM. PPV23 may be given either IM or SC.

### Injection site:

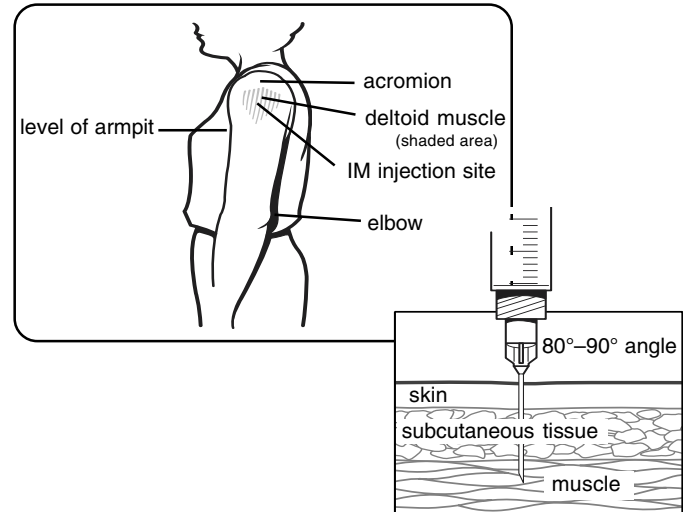
Give in the thickest and central portion of the deltoid—above the level of the armpit and below the acromion (see the diagram).

### Needle size:

22–25 gauge, 1" to 1-1/2" needle

### Needle insertion:

- Use a needle long enough to reach deep into the muscle.
- Insert the needle at an 80°–90° angle to the skin with a quick thrust.
- Two injections given in the same deltoid muscle should be separated by a minimum of 1", if possible.



## For Subcutaneous (SC) Injections

### Vaccines administered via SC route:

MMR, varicella, and meningococcal vaccines are given SC. PPV23 may be given either SC or IM.

### Injection site:

Posterolateral aspect of upper arm

### Needle size:

23–25 gauge, 5/8" needle

### Needle insertion:

- Pinch up on the tissue to prevent injection into muscle. Insert the needle at a 45° angle to the skin.
- Two injections given in the same area of fatty tissue should be given a minimum of 1" apart.

