When administering vaccine by an intramuscular (IM) injection to an adult:

**Use** the correct syringe and needle

- Vaccine may be administered using either a 1-mL or 3-mL syringe
- Use a 22 to 25 gauge needle
- Use the correct needle size based on your patient’s size

Injection site: Deltoid muscle of upper arm

1 in (25 mm) 1.5 in (38 mm) OR 1.5 in (38 mm)

Men and women, less than 60 kg* (130 lbs)
Men and women, 60-70 kg (130-152 lbs)
Men, 79-118 kg (152-260 lbs)
Women, 79-90 kg (152-200 lbs)

*Some experts recommend a 5/8-inch needle for men and women who weigh less than 60 kg (130 lbs).

**Identify** the injection site

- Locate the deltoid muscle of the upper arm
- Use anatomical landmarks to determine the injection site
- In adults, the midpoint of the deltoid is about 2 inches (or 2 to 3 fingers’ breadth) below the acromion process (bony prominence) and above the armpit in the middle of the upper arm

**Administer** the vaccine correctly

- Inject the vaccine into the middle and thickest part of the deltoid muscle
- Insert the needle at a 90° angle and inject all of the vaccine into the muscle tissue

**Always follow safe injection practices**

- Maintain aseptic technique
- Perform hand hygiene before preparing and administering vaccines
- Use a new needle and new syringe for each injection
- If using a single-dose vial (SDV) discard after use

*A SDV should be used for one patient only*

**IM injection best practices**

- Administering the injection too high on the upper arm may cause shoulder injury
- If administering additional vaccines into the same arm, separate the injection sites by 1 inch if possible

**Report any clinically significant adverse event**

After vaccination to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) at vaers.hhs.gov/

For additional information on proper vaccine administration, visit the CDC vaccine administration web page at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/admin/admin-protocols.html

Remember—you call the shots when it comes to proper flu vaccine administration!