

**P015**

## **SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION**

**Subcutaneous Injection (SC)** – an injection directly under the skin - It should be noted that this is considered a low risk area of injectables and is often, when possible, delivered by a Customer or family. The risk is very low as there are no significant blood vessels, muscles, ligament or organs that could be damaged in the process. This procedure is usually required when a Customer/Client or their family is unable to perform the procedure.

### **Subcutaneous Injection Plan**

A Subcutaneous Injection plan has been developed in conjunction of the Customer/Client and is overseen by a health practitioner. The plan will include detailed information and instructions on the medication requirements, dosage calculations where required, injection procedure along with incident and emergency management. With consent the Customer/Client health status should be monitored and reviewed in a timely manner. The overseeing health practitioner must be detailed on the care plan.

### **Checking Medication/Subcutaneous Injection**

As with all medications the Subcutaneous Injection must be checked using the Rights of medications as detailed below.

#### **Lifestyle Attendants must follow:**

- Right Drug. ...
- Right Patient. ...
- Right Dose. ...
- Right Route. ...
- Right Time and Frequency. ...
- Right Documentation. ...
- Right History and Assessment. ...
- Right to Refuse
- Right education and information

**Care workers must be trained in medicine administration before being able to administer a Subcutaneous Injection.**

**A Registered Nurse or a medication endorsed Enrolled Nurse is required to check the dose if calculation is required. No Variable dose with full supervision of CNCRN/EN**

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### **Training**

#### **Care Workers must:**

- Have completed competency-based training in the administration of medications and Subcutaneous Injections that includes being informed and aware of the risks associated with of a medication.
- Additional training and direct supervision and assessment by the Clinical Nurse Consultant/Registered Nurse is required before any drug calculation by a support worker is performed. When a drug calculation is required the dose must be checked and approved by the CNC/RN/EN before subcutaneous injection can be given.
- Be aware that they have a 'duty of care' to ensure the proper use of medication
- Report any changes or variations in the participant's health and wellbeing and medication orders to the Managers/Service Delivery Officers.
- Report when medication/subcutaneous injection is refused
- Not give any medications/subcutaneous injection to a Customer/Client that has not been ordered for that Customer/Client.
- Document the administration of medication as per the requirements of Enhanced Lifestyles/Lifestyle Assistance Accommodation Service.

### **INSULIN**

Insulin is a hormone that lowers the level of glucose (a type of sugar) in the blood by helping glucose enter the body's cells.

Insulin is only to be administered under strict conditions:

- The Customer/Client has been involved in assessment and development of the Plan for their medication sub-cutaneous injection with a skilled Registered Nurse or a person deemed competent by Enhanced Lifestyles and Lifestyle Assistance Accommodation Service.
- Storage of insulin is to below 9 degrees, all non-opened insulin is to be refrigerated.
- The provider has documented written or phone orders by the doctor prescribing the medication that trained Care Workers may administer by sub-cutaneous injection (see attached Doctors orders form).
- That the treating doctor has been given this guideline on administration of Insulin by Care Workers in the community.

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- The provider has appropriate policies and procedures including a training program relating to the support provided to a customer receiving SC injections and related medication.
- There is a written procedure for administration of Insulin by a Care Worker to the Customer/Client (P012 – Blood Glucose Monitoring).
- The procedure and Doctors approval are attached to medication order and retained in the home of the Customer/Client with a copy retained by Enhanced Lifestyles/ Lifestyle Assistance Accommodation Service.

### **Care Workers must follow:**

- The skilled Registered Nurse or a person deemed competent by the provider has developed an Action Plan to address any incident or emergency in relation to their SC injection or medication error.
- The Action Plan identifies escalation and management of any incident or emergency.
- All Care Workers have completed competency-based training by a Registered Nurse, Doctor or a person deemed competent by the provider - relating specifically to the customer injection and medication needs, managing a related incident and understanding the basic knowledge relating to the medication being delivered.
- Reporting is by exception – when an incident, emergency, error in medication or change of Plan occurs.
- If a Care Worker is trained to administer insulin, they are only allowed to administer from Insulin pen only not from Vial. If Customer/Client does not have insulin pen, please contact the service provider.

***The approval to implement individual services in accordance with this Guideline remains at the discretion of the treating doctor.***

***See QF114 - Doctors Order for Insulin (to be Administered by Support Workers)***