

STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR INSERTING AN INSUFLON

Why do we use insuflons?

Insuflons are used to administer drugs that need to be injected into the subcutaneous tissues without having to inject the patient repeatedly. An insuflon must be changed every 7 days or sooner if the skin surrounding it becomes hard/red or begins to bleed.

Equipment

Insuflon kit (includes insuflon needle + dressing)
Skin cleansing wipe

Method

1. Discuss with the patient/family about the procedure and gain consent
2. Put on apron, wash your hands and put on gloves – this is a clean technique, you do not have to be sterile
3. Locate an area of skin – preferably the thigh – and choose a relatively fatty area with no lumps or damaged skin
4. Pinch the a large area of skin together using your thumb and forefinger to gather the skin and wipe the area using your cleansing wipe, allow to dry for 30 seconds
5. Insert the insuflon at 45 degree angle to the skin with the needle pointing towards the heart
6. Once in place, remove the inner needle to leave the outer tubing in the skin – similar to an IV cannula (no blood/fluid should leak from here, if this is the case, remove the insuflon and begin again in a new area of skin)
7. Using the dressing, place the clear film part of the dressing over the skin insertion site and ensure this stuck to the skin to prevent bacteria from entering (and the open part of the dressing should go over the designated insuflon injecting site to leave this area open for use)
8. If possible, document the insertion date on the dressing and most importantly, in the nursing notes.

Skin should be checked at least daily or every time you are about to use the insuflon. Any evidence of infection/bleeding, the insuflon should be removed and resited