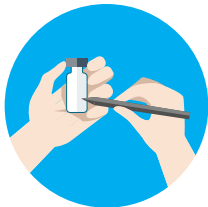


Steps on How to Withdraw a Vaccine from a Multi-Dose Vial

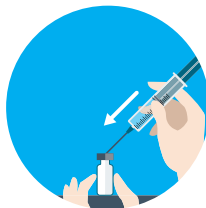
1. Make sure that your work area is clean, and you have the supplies you need (e.g., vaccine vial, syringe, needle, alcohol pad, etc.)
2. Wash your hands with soap and water or cleanse with an alcohol-based sanitizer.
3. Check the name, dosage and expiry date at three points in time: when obtaining the vial, when drawing up the medication, and before administering the product.



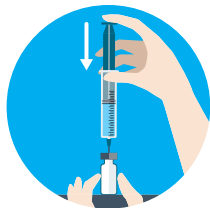
4. Remove the cap on the vial if this is the first entry.
5. Wipe the surface of the rubber stopper with either an alcohol pad or a cotton pad/swab that has been moistened with 70% isopropyl alcohol and allow this to air dry.
6. Shake the vial before each use to ensure uniform distribution of the suspension. Check the product instructions to confirm if this consists of gentle swirl or shake.
7. Inspect the medication in the vial to ensure there are no changes in colour, cloudiness, presence of particulate matter, or any other changes.
8. Prior to entering the vial: With the needle attached to your syringe, pull back on the plunger to fill the syringe with a volume of air equal to the dose to be removed.



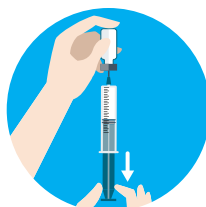
9. Place the vial right side up and hold with one hand. With the other hand, making sure that the needle bevel is facing up and away from the stopper, insert the needle at a 45°-60° angle applying a small amount of pressure as the needle enters the stopper and slowly increasing the angle to 90° as the bevel passes through the centre of the rubber stopper to prevent coring. Take care not to touch or bend the needle. (Tip: If the vial has been punctured before, avoid puncturing the stopper at the same site(s).)



10. Slowly inject the air into the vial.

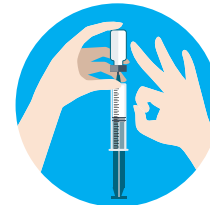


11. Invert the vial and hold it up in the air. Make sure that the needle tip is in the liquid.
12. Pull back on the plunger to withdraw the appropriate dose of vaccine.



13. If air bubbles are present, stabilize the vial and syringe with one hand. Tap the syringe to move bubbles to the top, then gently push the plunger to expel them into the vial. With the needle still in the vaccine, draw up the

required dose. If there are many bubbles, push all the vaccine back into the vial and redraw slowly, tapping as needed until the correct dose is drawn with no air bubbles. Do not detach the needle from the syringe or leave the needle in the vial to draw up further doses.



14. Remove the needle from the vial. (Please note, it is not necessary to change the needle between drawing up the vaccine and administering it to the patient. The needle should only be changed if it is bent, damaged or contaminated.)
15. Record the date opened on the vial using the format: yyyy= 4 digit year, Mon= 3 letter month, dd= 2 digit date. (Tip: If the vial label is too small, write the date on a blank sticker and affix to the vial, or record the date on the vaccine box.) Immediately return vaccine to a temperature-controlled storage container.

DISCLAIMER

This resource was compiled by the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA) in accordance with OPA's Commitment to Content Quality and Integrity and is provided to pharmacy professionals for informational purposes only. It is intended to assist pharmacy professionals with planning and implementing vaccine administration services in practice but does not replace professional judgment and responsibilities. Some information may not be up to date but is provided for reference purposes. It is provided without warranty of any kind by OPA and OPA assumes no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies therein. The decision for use and application of this information is the responsibility of the user. OPA assumes no liability for such use and application or any resulting outcomes. It is the responsibility of the pharmacy professional to use professional judgment in evaluating this material in light of any relevant clinical or situational data. It is intended to supplement materials provided by regulatory authorities, and should there be any discrepancies, municipal, provincial, and federal laws, policies and guidelines shall prevail. Pharmacy professionals are encouraged to use other resources that are appropriate and available to them.

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