



THE TANKERSLEY CLINIC
ALLERGY, RESPIRATORY & SKIN CARE

Adult and Pediatric Allergy/Immunology
Mike Tankersley, MD, MBA
FAAAAI, FACAAL, FAAP
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The Skills Checklist for Allergen Immunotherapy and Biologics Injections

Competency: Patient / Parent Education

1. Welcomes patient/family and establishes rapport.
2. Answers questions and accommodates language or literacy barriers and special needs of patient/parents to help make them feel comfortable and informed about the procedure.
3. Screens for contraindications by asking screening questions.
4. Screens for oral antihistamine use within 24 hours of injections
5. Asks patient's name and date of birth and pulls immunotherapy and biologics documentation records on the patient.
6. Asks patient to examine immunotherapy vials and biologics labels to verify correct name and date of birth that vials belong to patient.
7. Reviews comfort measures and aftercare instructions with patient/parents and invites questions.

Medical and Office Protocols

1. Identifies the location of the medical protocols (e.g., immunotherapy and biologics protocol, emergency protocol, and reference material).
2. Identifies the location of epinephrine, its administration technique, and clinical situations where its use would be indicated.
3. Understands the need to report any needlestick injury and to maintain a sharps injury log.
4. Demonstrates knowledge of proper immunotherapy and biologics handling, e.g., maintains immunotherapy and biologics at recommended temperature.

Immunotherapy Preparation

1. Performs proper hand hygiene prior to preparing immunotherapy and biologics.
2. Checks vial and biologics expiration date. Double-checks vial and biologics label and contents prior to drawing up or administering.
3. Prepares and draws up immunotherapy and biologics in a designated clean medication area that is not adjacent to areas where potentially contaminated items are placed.
4. Selects the correct needle size for subcutaneous injection based on recommended injection technique.
5. Maintains aseptic technique throughout, including cleaning the rubber septum (stopper) of the vial with alcohol prior to piercing it.
6. For immunotherapy, inverts vial and draws up correct dose of immunotherapy. Rechecks vial label.
7. For immunotherapy, prepares a new sterile syringe and sterile needle for each injection. Checks the expiration date on the equipment (syringes and needles) if present.



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Administering Immunotherapy

1. Utilizes proper hand hygiene with every patient.
2. Demonstrates knowledge of the appropriate route.
3. Positions patient and/or restrains the child with parent's help.
4. Correctly identifies the injection site (i.e. fatty tissue over triceps).
5. Locates anatomic landmarks specific for subcutaneous injections.
6. Controls the limb with the non-dominant hand; holds the needle an inch from the skin and inserts it quickly at the appropriate angle (45° for subcutaneous injection).
7. Injects immunotherapy and biologics using steady pressure; withdraws needle at angle of insertion.
8. Uses strategies to reduce anxiety and pain associated with injections.
9. Properly disposes of needle and syringe in "sharps" container.
10. Properly returns vials to immunotherapy vial storage container in alphabetical order.

Records Procedure

1. Fully documents each immunotherapy and biologics injection and site inspection after 30 minute wait in patient chart: date, concentration, vial color, volume, right or left arm, initials at time of injection and local site inspection, time injected and time of injection site inspection and assessment of any adverse reactions after 30 minute wait and documentation of any local or systemic reaction.
2. Asks patients to schedule next immunotherapy and biologics injection(s) visit.

Employee Statement and Signature: I verify that I have been trained and am competent on all the above skills to administer allergen immunotherapy and biologics.

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Statement and Signature: I verify that the above-named employee has been trained and is competent on all the above skills to administer allergen immunotherapy and biologics.

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____