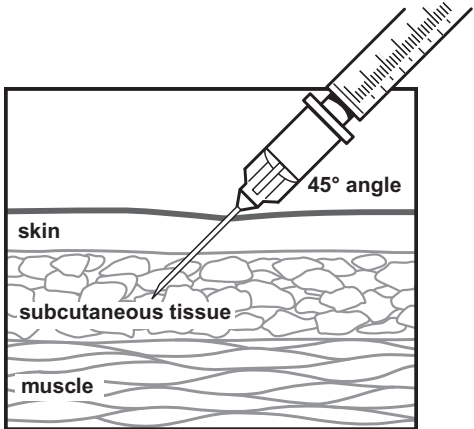


How to Administer Subcutaneous (SC) Vaccine Injections

Administer these vaccines by the subcutaneous (SC) route: measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), varicella (VAR), meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV4), and zoster (shingles [ZOS]). Administer inactivated polio (IPV) and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPSV23) vaccines either SC or IM.

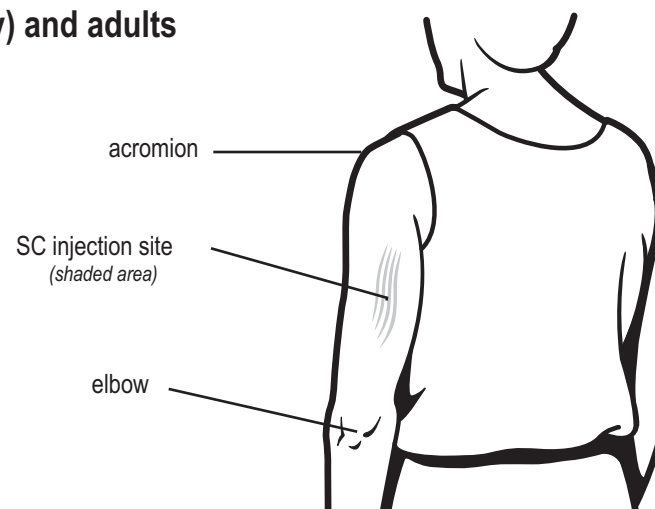
| Patient age | Injection site | Needle size | Needle insertion |
|-------------------|--|--------------------------|--|
| Birth to 12 mos. | Fatty tissue over the anterolateral thigh muscle | 5/8" needle, 23–25 gauge | <p>Pinch up on subcutaneous (SC) tissue to prevent injection into muscle.</p> <p>Insert needle at 45° angle to the skin.</p> <p>(Before administering an injection of vaccine, it is not necessary to aspirate, i.e., to pull back on the syringe plunger after needle insertion.*)</p> <p>Multiple injections given in the same extremity should be separated by a minimum of 1".</p> <p>*CDC. "ACIP General Recommendations on Immunization" at www.immunize.org/acip</p>  |
| 12 mos. and older | Fatty tissue over anterolateral thigh or fatty tissue over triceps | 5/8" needle, 23–25 gauge | |

SC site for infants



Insert needle at a 45° angle into fatty tissue of the anterolateral thigh. Make sure you pinch up on SC tissue to prevent injection into the muscle.

SC site for children (after the 1st birthday) and adults



Insert needle at a 45° angle into the fatty tissue over the triceps muscle. Make sure you pinch up on the SC tissue to prevent injection into the muscle.