

Giving injections

Instructor check when completed

PREPARATION

- 1 Wash hands thoroughly
- 2 Calculate the amount of medicine required per pig and for the whole group of pigs to be treated:
 - Check the correct product to be used and the dosage rate in the department **Treatment protocol** or the farm **Vaccination protocol**
 - If necessary, calculate the dosage rate per pig, following the **Calculating the correct dose of medication** procedure
 - Calculate the total amount of medicine or vaccine to be used
- 3 Remove the required amount of medicine or vaccine from the medicines storage area
- 4 Check the site and route of injection in the department **Treatment protocol**
- 5 Select the correct syringe size for the amount of product to be injected
- 6 Select the correct needle length and gauge according to type and weight of pig from the **Needle length and gauge** chart below. Always use a new disposable needle
Never use needles that are damaged or blunt

Needle length and gauge

Pig type	weight (kg)	Intramuscular				Subcutaneous			
		length		gauge		length		gauge	
		mm	ins	mm	g	mm	ins	mm	g
Piglet	1 - 7	16	$\frac{5}{8}$	0.6-0.8	23 - 21	---	---	---	---
Nursery pig	7 - 20	25	1	0.7-1.2	21 - 18	---	---	---	---
Feeder pig	20 - 40	25	1	1.2	18	---	---	---	---
Finisher	40 -120	38	$1\frac{1}{2}$	1.4	16	---	---	---	---
Gilt	100 -140	50	2	1.4	16	25	1	1.2	18
Sow/boar	140+	50	2	1.4	16	25	1	1.2	18



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PREPARATION (cont'd)

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|----|--|
| 7 | Take sufficient needles to be able to change the needle after each 10 sows, 20 nursery/finisher pigs, 30 piglets |
| 8 | Take a 38mm/1½ins, 1.4mm/16g gauge “draw” needle for quick removal of product from the bottle |
| 9 | Wipe the rubber seal at the top of part-used bottles with sterile cotton soaked in alcohol. Ensure all bottles are clean |
| 10 | Place bottles, syringes and needles in a clean medical tray for transport |

PROCEDURE

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Shake bottle of product well if indicated on the label |
| 2 | Push a 38mm/1½ins, 1.4mm/16g gauge needle into the top of the bottle |
| 3 | Withdraw the syringe plunger by the amount of product to be injected and push onto the needle in the bottle |
| 4 | Holding the bottle upside down, depress the plunger, forcing air into the bottle (not necessary with collapsible containers) then withdraw the correct amount of product |
| 5 | Hold the syringe needle upwards, tap the syringe barrel to bring air bubbles to the top and depress the plunger until any air is expelled |
| 6 | If necessary, snare* the pig to be injected (note that injecting snared pigs is a two man operation) |
| 7 | If necessary, clean the injection site with sterile cotton soaked in alcohol
<i>Never inject through dirty or wet skin</i> |
| 8 | For intramuscular injection insert the needle towards the top of the neck, above and behind the loose skin behind the ear. Ensure needle enters at 90° to the skin |



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PROCEDURE (cont'd)

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|----|---|
| 9 | For subcutaneous injection (gilts, sows, boars): <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Inject under the loose skin in the hollow behind the ear➔ Create a fold of skin by pinching between thumb and forefinger➔ Insert needle at a slight angle to run under the skin and beneath the fold |
| 10 | Push the plunger to inject the product and then withdraw the needle. |
| 11 | <i>If the needle breaks off in the pig, mark it immediately and follow the Broken needle protocol</i> |
| 12 | Spray mark or tag* the pig for identification to ensure medicines withdrawal periods are correctly observed (if appropriate) |
| 13 | If more pigs are to be injected wipe the needle with sterile cotton soaked in alcohol prior to the next pig (or between litters for suckling pigs) |
| 14 | When injections are completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➔ Place the plastic cap over the needle on the syringe for safety➔ Remove the needle from the medicines bottle |
| 15 | Record all injections given in the <i>Medicines treatment record</i> and on the gilt, sow or boar individual record card* if appropriate including the clearance date |
| 16 | Dispose of all used needles, syringes and empty medicines bottles according to the farm <i>Waste disposal protocol</i> |
| 17 | Sterilize any non-disposable syringes and needles and store in a container of alcohol |



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SAFETY PROCEDURES

- 1 Always protect needles with a plastic cap when not being used
- 2 Restrain or snare* larger pigs that are likely to be difficult to inject
- 3 If accidental self-injection occurs:
 - Inform the farm manager immediately
 - Read the data sheet for the product injected
 - Carry out any immediate actions recommended
 - If necessary go to the doctor or medical center, taking the data sheet
 - If oil-based vaccine is injected go immediately to the nearest hospital Accident and Emergency Department with the data sheet

