

This poster highlights some general vaccine administration best practices. **It is not meant to be a comprehensive resource.** For more information, consult the professional standards for medication administration, product Prescribing Information, and guidelines from ACIP and your state or agency.¹



Prepare the **PATIENT**¹

- Always screen the patient for contraindications and precautions, even if the patient has received the same vaccine in the past.
- Discuss the benefits and risks of the vaccine, using the Vaccine Information Statements (VISs), the Prescribing Information, and the Patient Product Information, if available.
- Address any patient concerns and help minimize discomfort. For example, having the patient sit up during vaccination may help to reduce their pain and anxiety.



Prepare **YOURSELF**¹

- Read the appropriate vaccine information and adhere to the Prescribing Information. Consult ACIP, AAP, and CDC resources as needed.
- Wash hands thoroughly. Good handwashing is critical to prevent the spread of disease and illness.
- Use gloves when appropriate.
- Know what to do in the event of a needlestick injury.



Prepare the **VACCINE**¹

- Important! Use a separate sterile syringe and needle for each injection.
- Carefully verify that the correct vaccine is being prepared. Check the vaccine name, type, and age indications, and color-coded label.
- Inspect the vaccine and diluent vial carefully for damage or contamination prior to use.
- Check the expiration date on the vaccine prior to use. An expired vaccine should never be used.
- Refer to the Prescribing Information for needle selection, reconstitution, and other specifics.
- The CDC strongly discourages prefilling syringes because of an increased risk of errors in administration.
- Never mix vaccines in the same syringe unless approved for mixing by the FDA.
- Triple-check your work.
- Document vaccination in the patient's medical record.
- Follow proper medical waste disposal guidelines.

Before administering any vaccine, please read the appropriate Prescribing Information and Patient Product Information.

Abbreviations: AAP=American Academy of Pediatrics; ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices; CDC=Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; FDA=Food and Drug Administration.

Reference: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Hamborsky J, Kroger A, Wolfe S, eds. *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. 13th ed. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundation; 2015;Chapter 6.