



College of  
Chiropractors  
of Ontario

# Administering a Substance by Injection (including Local Anesthetic)

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## Introduction

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This standard of practice outlines legislative requirements and professional expectations for registrants who administer substances by injection, as authorized under section 5(1)(2) of the [Chiropractic Act, 1991](#) and its associated regulations.

## Requirements

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The standard of practice required to administer a substance by injection comes from section 2 of [Ontario Regulation 203/94](#).

- **Subsection (1)** establishes that a registrant who administers a substance by injection into the foot must first have either,
  - a) satisfied the Registrar or the Registration Committee that they have sufficient knowledge, skill and judgement, based on the registrant’s formal education and training, to safely and competently administer by injection into the foot the substances set out in Schedule 1 of Ontario Regulation 203/94: General; or
  - b) successfully completed a course approved by Council on administering substances by injection into the foot.<sup>1</sup>
- **Subsection (2)** exempts certain individuals from the requirements above:
  - A registrant is deemed to have met the standard of practice if they were authorized before May 15, 2023 to administer the substances listed in Schedule 1 by injection into the foot.
  - This means that practitioners who were authorized to perform injections before the regulation came into effect on May 15, 2023, do not need to requalify under the new standards.

### Registrants are authorized to administer by injection:

- **Substances** included in [Schedule 1](#) of O. Reg 203/94.

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<sup>1</sup> [Ontario Regulation 203/94: General](#)

## **Before administering a substance by injection, registrants must:**

### **1. Assess their competency and qualifications**

- Registrants may administer injectable substances only if they have obtained the necessary requirements.

### **2. Assess the environment**

- Administration of a substance must take place in an environment that is clean, safe, private and comfortable for the patient, in a way that protects their confidentiality and dignity.

### **3. Assess the patient**

- The decision to administer a substance by injection is based on its approved indicators, the patient's age, individual needs, medical history, current health status, consideration of potential risks and benefits, and the registrant's professional judgment.

### **4. Confirm Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) procedures are in place**

- Registrants must adhere to the College's IPAC standard when administering injectable substances, including having measures in place to prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to patients, the public and staff.
- A 'routine precaution' approach should be used with all patients, including proper hand washing and, when appropriate, use of personal protective equipment.
- All needles, syringes and injectable substances must be sterile before use.
- Disposal of needles, syringes, vials and other sharps must comply with the IPAC standard.
- Registrants must not recap, bend or manipulate needles prior to disposal.

### **5. Obtain informed consent to treatment**

- Before administering any injectable substance, registrants must provide the patient with appropriate information and obtain informed consent.
- Under the [Health Care Consent Act](#), consent to treatment is informed if, before giving it, the person received:
  - Information about the nature, expected benefits, potential risks or side effects of the proposed treatment.
  - Information about the other options or consequences of not having the treatment.
  - Any information that a reasonable person in the same circumstance would require to make a decision about the treatment.
  - Responses to their requests for additional information.

- Consent is only valid if the person giving it has the ability to understand both the reason for the consent and what they are agreeing to.
- There is no minimum age of consent in Ontario.
- Consent may be expressed or implied, but it must be documented in the medical record.

**After administering a substance by injection, registrants must:**

**6. Monitor the patient**

- Patients must not be discharged until both the registrant and the patient are confident that no adverse reaction or complications are likely to occur.

**7. Document**

- Detailed records must be maintained for each administration, including assessment, dosage, quantity, injection site, effectiveness, and any observed adverse reactions.

**8. Be prepared for an emergency**

- Registrants must be able to manage anaphylaxis and other clinical emergencies that may arise from the administration of injectable substances.
- An emergency kit and oxygen supply must be maintained in good working order within the clinical suite. Instructions for their use should be documented in the office manual.

## References

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[Chiropractic Act, 1991](#)

[Code of Ethics](#)

[Consent](#)

[Health Care Consent Act](#)

[IPAC](#)

[Ontario Regulation 203/94](#)

[Office Medical Emergencies](#)

[Patient Relations](#)

[Records](#)