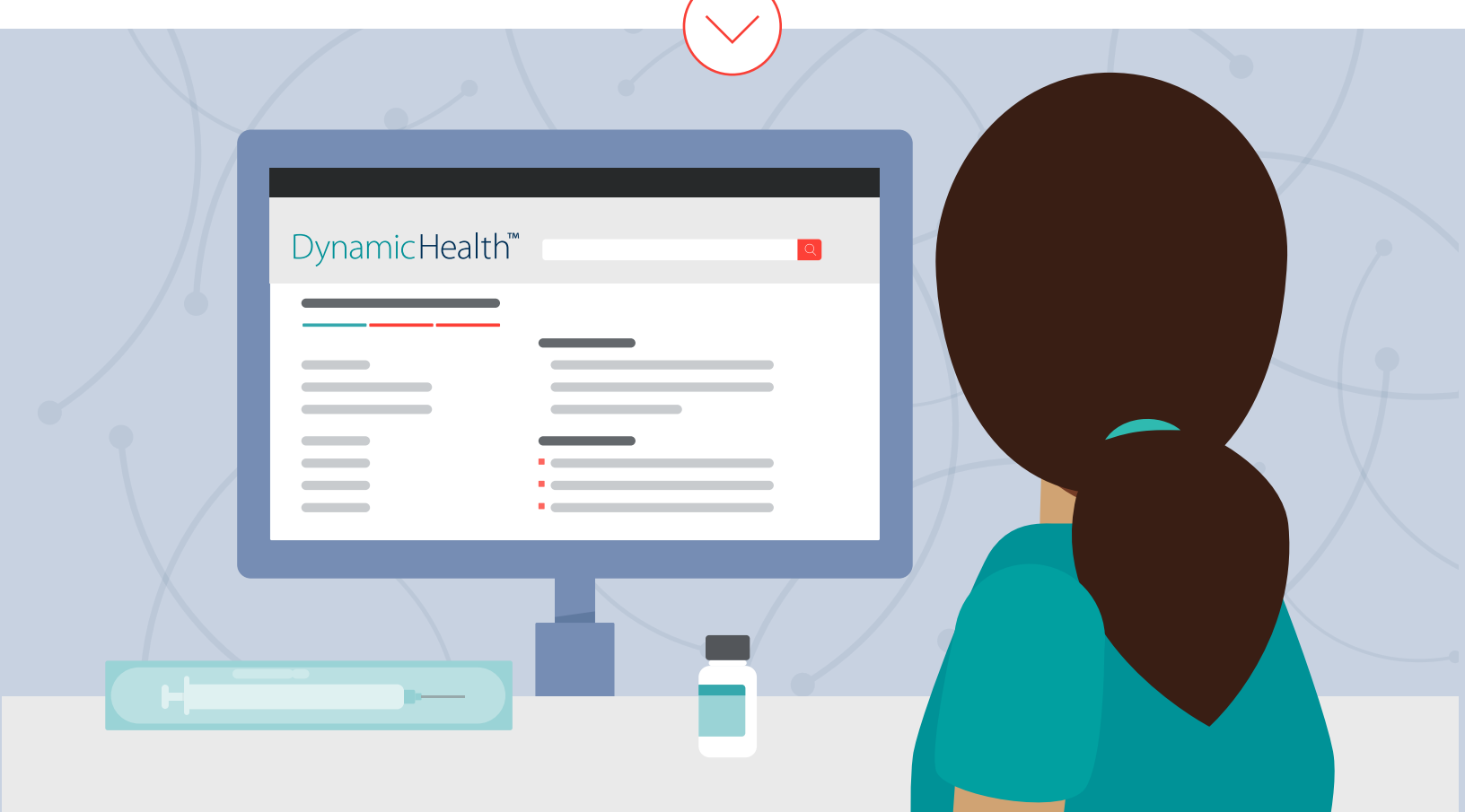


# Vaccination in Adults

Make Sure Your Nurses' Skills are Sharp

Did you know that approximately 42,000 adults in the U.S. alone die from vaccine-preventable diseases every year? While some diseases have been eradicated in certain parts of the world, they are still prevalent and in some cases epidemic in other parts of the world. Vaccination plays a vital role in ensuring vaccine-preventable diseases don't pop up in parts of the world where they have been eliminated. In addition to preventing illness, it reduces the overall cost of medical care and improves workforce productivity by decreasing the number of days lost from work due to vaccine-preventable illness.

Administering vaccinations is a common part of many nurses' day-to-day tasks, but nurses' skill levels can vary. Check out the *Dynamic Health*™ competency checklist below to see if your nurses are checking all the boxes when it comes to administering vaccinations in adults.



## PRE-PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Review the facility/unit protocol for administering immunizations to adults, if one is available
- 2. Review the treating clinician's order for immunization
- 3. Note the type and dose of vaccine ordered and route of administration
- 4. Review the patient's medical history/medical record
- 5. Follow standard pre-procedure steps
- 6. Verify the "rights" of medication administration. See medication administration "rights."



## PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Assist the patient into a comfortable position that allows easy access to the area of the body where the immunization will be administered
- 2. Use an alcohol swab or facility-approved antiseptic to clean the injection site using a circular motion
- 3. Allow the site to air-dry
- 4. Uncap the syringe
- 5. Use techniques to promote effective vaccine delivery in target tissue, minimize injection site pain, and reduce risk for local reactions
- 6. Use I.M. administration for most vaccinations
- 7. Use Z-track injection if appropriate
- 8. Administer vaccinations in a larger muscle
- 9. Select the appropriate needle length for the vaccination administration
- 10. Stretch or spread the skin flat, with your nondominant hand, between the thumb and index finger to create a firm surface and to isolate the muscle or hold the skin
- 11. Use your dominant hand to hold the syringe between the thumb and forefinger as if holding a dart
- 12. Position the needle at a 90° angle to the surface of the injection site and pierce the patient's skin with the needle using a smooth, rapid motion
- 13. Inject the vaccine
- 14. Gently withdraw the needle using the same track as for injection, and release the skin to its normal position
- 15. Cover the injection site with a bandage
- 16. Do not massage the skin or muscle tissue at the site of the injection because doing so can irritate the muscle tissue and/or force some of the medication into the subcutaneous tissue



## POST-PROCEDURE STEPS

- 1. Follow standard post-procedure steps
- 2. Dispose of used materials in proper receptacles and perform hand hygiene
- 3. Assess the patient following immunization and educate about potential adverse effects, including allergic reactions. Provide written information, if available, to reinforce verbal education.
- 4. Booster vaccinations are necessary for long-term immunity to certain diseases, including varicella, diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus

## Like what you saw?

There's lots more where this came from. *Dynamic Health*, an innovative new evidence-based tool, offers thousands of actionable clinical skills and accompanying competency checklists to help nurses and allied health professionals master critical skills. Users will find current, relevant, evidence-based information on core nursing competencies, transcultural care, patient training, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition and dietetics, social work and so much more.

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