Safe use of injectable drugs begins with you — read, understand and follow all label directions and observe all caution statements and human warnings.

Safety First

Worker safety

• Consult your veterinarian for safe handling and use training prior to administering injectable products
• Store injectable products in a secure location not accessible to children or the general public
• Keep children and bystanders out of work area
• Properly restrain all animals
• Identify an exit route
• Be aware of uneven or changing walking surfaces
• Handle loaded syringes with care
• Keep needles properly covered until use
• Never carry loaded syringes in pocket or by hand; always carry in a tote
• Do not work alone
• Clearly establish the team leader, roles and responsibilities
• Evaluate the experience of those around you

Animal safety

• Use adequate facilities (e.g., squeeze chute, head gate)
• Minimize handling stress in accordance with animal behavior
• Adjust your activity to the temperament of each animal

Environmental safety

• Post emergency procedures and contacts
• Remove potential hazards in work area
• Repair or remove broken equipment
• Properly dispose of used needles and bottles
• Recycle all injectable syringes and bottle packaging
Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA)\(^1\) guidelines for injectable animal-health products

- Follow FDA/USDA/EPA guidelines for product(s) utilized
- All products are to be used per label directions
- Extra-label drug use shall be kept to a minimum and only when prescribed by a licensed veterinarian working within a valid Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR)
- Strict adherence to extended withdrawal periods (as determined by the veterinarian within the context of a valid VCPR) shall be employed
- Products labeled for subcutaneous (SQ) administration should be administered SQ in the neck region, unless another site is recommended, e.g., base of ear
- All products labeled for intramuscular (IM) use shall be given in the neck region only (no exceptions, regardless of age)
- All products cause tissue damage when injected IM; therefore, IM use should be avoided if possible
- Products with low dosage rates are recommended and proper spacing between injection sites should be followed
- No more than 10 cc of product should be administered per injection site; it is recommended that injections are given at least 4 inches apart

Exercise caution to avoid accidental self-injection

- Keep needles properly covered until ready to use
- Carry syringes in proper manner to ensure safe handling
- Handle loaded syringes with care
- Never carry loaded syringes in coat or pockets
- If syringe is broken or damaged in any way, discontinue use immediately
- Exercise caution when removing needle from syringe

What to do in case of self-injection

**SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION AND:**

- **REACH** for and apply ice pack (if recommended by manufacturer)
- **REFERENCE** product label and provide to emergency medical personnel
- **REMEMBER** to call SafetyCall at 1-800-722-0987 or local poison control at 1-800-222-1212

Notes:

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