WHITING FORENSIC HOSPITAL
Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual

SECTION F: MEDICATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES
CHAPTER 23: MEDICATION MANAGEMENT

Policy and Procedure 23.17.8 RETRACTABLE SYRINGE INJECTION

Standard of Practice:
The licensed nurse will competently administer parenteral medication.

Standard of Care:
The patient can expect the licensed nurse to be competent in the administration of medication by injection.

Policy:
The Retractable Syringe is used to administer medication by injection.
Non-retractable, safety syringes can also be used to administer medication by injection.

Procedure:
1. **Obtain Equipment**
   - Retractable Syringe (select the appropriate size syringe and needle)
   - Alcohol Preps
   - 2 x 2 gauze or cotton ball
   - Gloves
   - Medication

2. **Implementation**
   a. Perform hand hygiene.
   b. Put on gloves.
   c. Prepare the syringe with the medication using aseptic technique.
   d. Select and prepare an appropriate site by cleansing it with an alcohol swab.
   e. Allow the skin to dry.
   f. Spread the tissue taut. (If administering in an arm, do not spread the tissue taut).
   g. Hold the syringe and pierce the skin for subcutaneous (45-degree angle) or intramuscular (90-degree angle).
   h. Steady the syringe and aspirate to observe for blood.
   i. Administer the medication if no blood is apparent.
   j. Continue depressing plunger past the point of resistance in order to activate the automatic retraction while the needle is still in the patient.
   k. Needle will automatically retract into syringe, preventing exposure to contaminated needle and rendering syringe non-reusable.
   l. Massage the injection site with an alcohol swab.
   m. Dispose of syringe in the sharps container.
   n. Perform hand hygiene.
Precautions:

♦ Single use only.
♦ Contents are sterile, non-toxic, and non-pyrogenic. Do not use if product or package is damaged.
♦ Contains no natural rubber latex.
♦ Use only with attached needle. Needle cannot be changed.
♦ Automated needle retraction occurs only when barrel is emptied and plunger is fully depressed.
♦ U.S. Federal Law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician.