

## Safety considerations

- Move slowly around the horse and use minimum restraint necessary.
- Halter and lead rope are required, and the horse should never be tied.
- Never stand directly in front of or behind the horse.
- It may be possible to distract a needle shy horse by pinching adjacent skin or using a shot pain reducer device.

## Veterinarian's additional instructions:

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Improper drug handling and injection techniques can result in adverse drug effects. Speak with your veterinarian to discuss the signs of drug reactions and how to handle them. Refer to product specific information for safety details. If your horse is showing signs of an adverse reaction, call your veterinarian immediately.



Veterinary guide to

# Equine Intramuscular Injection



### The Veterinary Perspective

### Dechra Veterinary Products

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# Your veterinarian may use the following procedure for intramuscular injection:

- Identify injection site and ensure it is clean and free of debris, alcohol may be used.
- Quickly and gently insert the needle perpendicular to the skin into the muscle and sink the entire length of the needle, down to the hub.
- Aspirate (draw back the plunger) to ensure that inadvertent venipuncture did not occur.

## If blood is present at aspiration, either:

- Completely remove the needle/syringe and choose a new site; OR,
- Pull the needle back (out completely or partially), redirect the needle and insert down to the hub, then aspirate again.
- Inject the medication in one smooth motion.
- Use finger(s) to ensure the syringe remains attached to the needle during injection.
- Only withdraw the needle once the plunger is fully depressed, indicating all medication has been injected.

## After the injection

- Monitor for adverse reactions at least 30 minutes after treatment. Contact your veterinarian immediately if you notice swelling at the injection site, hives, rapid breathing, agitation, or any other concerning signs.
- If repeat dosing is necessary, rotate between sites to avoid repeated injury to a muscle. It may be helpful to document the site and side of the injection for planning subsequent injections.

## Injection site locations



Photo credit: Brett Turi, DVM

### Neck (Cervical) muscles

Most common location: Within theoretical triangle formed by cervical vertebrae (below), cranial border of scapula (caudally), and nuchal ligament (above)

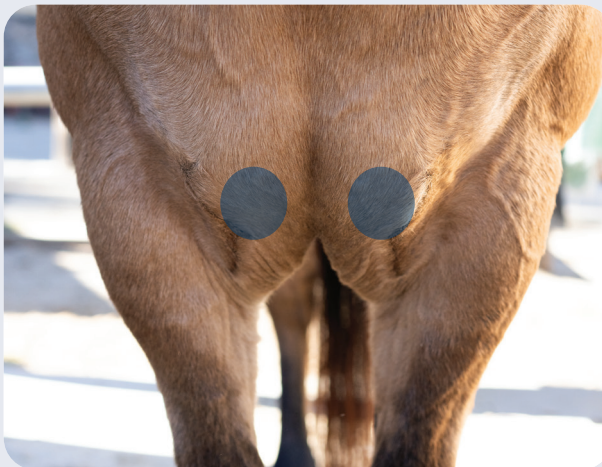


Photo credit: Brett Turi, DVM

### Chest (Pectoral) muscles

Right side and left side in center of rounded muscle between front limbs



Photo credit: Brett Turi, DVM

### Hamstrings (Semitendinosus & Semimembranosus) muscles

Between the tuber ischia (sit bones) and distal musculotendinous junction