Intradermal Influenza Administration With Fluzone ID® (sanofi pasteur)

With the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval of intradermal influenza vaccine, many questions have been asked of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) about additional training for pharmacists. This is a relatively easy vaccine to administer and we have developed this worksheet from material provided by the manufacturer and other resources to explain the process.

Fluzone ID® was approved by the FDA for use in adults age 18 to 64. This is a special syringe (called a microinjection system) that has a very small needle that penetrates into the dermis, which is rich in specialized immune cells. Fluzone ID® contains 27 mcg of antigen per 0.1 mL, compared with the IM influenza, which contains 45 mcg per 0.5 mL or Fluzone® High-dose with 180 mcg of antigen per 0.5 mL (which is also given IM).

Following is the recommended method for administration of intradermal influenza vaccine.

**Step 1:** Remove the needle cap

**Step 2:** Hold the syringe between your thumb and middle finger, leaving the index finger free

**Step 3:** Insert the needle rapidly and perpendicular to the skin, bracing your hand against the patient’s arm

**Step 4:** Inject the contents of the syringe with your index finger

**Step 5:** Remove needle from skin and activate the needle shield by pushing firmly on the plunger until you hear a click

Always dispose of needles (used or otherwise) in a sharps container.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) does not recommend one influenza vaccine over the other until clinical studies show superiority of one vaccine over another. Remember that all patients over the age of 6 months and without contraindications should receive an influenza vaccine. As of June 2011, ACIP has not made any recommendation regarding Fluzone ID.