

### DEFINITION:

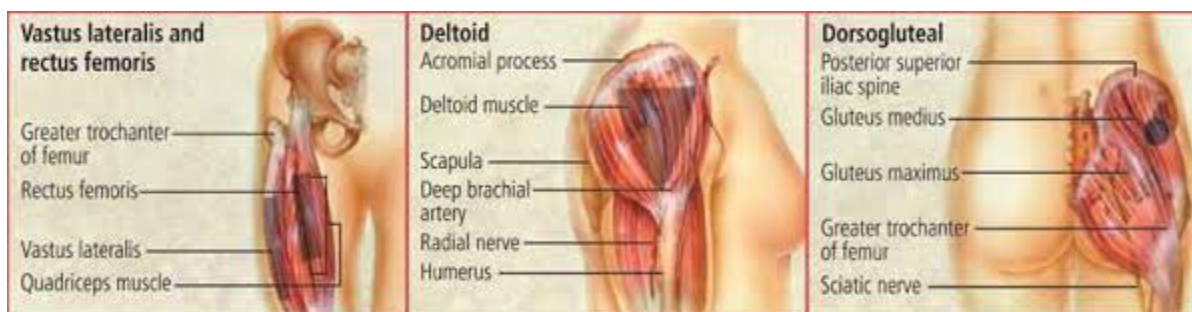
In the absence of an established IV, intramuscular (IM) is a rapid route of offering a high level of bioavailability of the medication being administered. The intramuscular route can be administered into a desired muscle to provide effective medication uptake. The rich vasculature of the muscle masses provides a direct route into the bloodstream for the medication.

### INDICATIONS:

- A. Patient without IV access requiring urgent medication administration.
- B. May be used for administration of **Diphenhydramine, Epinephrine 1:1,000, Fentanyl, Glucagon, Haloperidol, Ketamine, Lorazepam, Midazolam, Morphine, Naloxone, Ondansetron, Oxytocin and Thiamine.**

### PROCEDURE:

- A. Select IM medicine access location. Prioritized locations of IM access will be:
  - 1. Mid lateral portion of the thigh. Locate the middle third of the thigh and select a lateral approach angle.
  - 2. Lateral deltoid muscle.
  - 3. Buttocks or dorsogluteal site. This site is least desirable as it has more fatty tissue with less blood vessels resulting in poor uptake of the medication into the blood stream, especially in obese patients.
- B. Cleanse site with alcohol and/or Chloraprep. Proper iodine procedure may used if no allergy exists.
- C. Stretch skin at selected site taught.
- D. Insert needle safely into muscle at a 90 degree angle to the skin at insertion point. Insertion should be at a minimum 1" but not over 3".
- E. Withdraw syringe to ensure you are not into a blood vessel. If you witness blood come back into the syringe, withdraw needle and syringe, dispose properly and select another site.
- F. If site is desirable after needle insertion dispense medication by depressing syringe plunger slowly.
- G. Remove needle at the same 90 degree angle as initial insertion.
- H. Cap with safety cap that is attached if available and dispose of the needle safely into a sharps container.
- I. Release taught skin and gently rub site to assist with medication uptake.



### PEDIATRIC PATIENTS:

- A. Pediatric IM administration location is the same as adults.