## How to Use a Biologic Autoinjector Pen

- 1. Remove the biologic medication carton from the refrigerator (fridge), and then remove the autoinjector pen from the carton. Place the pen on a clean, flat surface away from heat and direct sunlight, and out of the reach of children. Keep the cap on the pen until you're ready to inject the medication.
  - Do not shake the biologic medication.
- 2. Wait 45 minutes for the biologic medication to warm up to room temperature.
- 3. Check the expiration date on the pen. Do not use this medication if it is expired.
- 4. Look at the medication through the small window on the autoinjector pen. The medication should look clear and colorless or pale yellow.
  - Do not use the medication if it is cloudy, a different color, or if it contains flakes or particles.
  - The pen may contain a small air bubble, which is normal. You do not need to get rid of the air bubble before you inject the medication.
- 5. Wash your hands.
- 6. Pick your injection site.
  - If you're giving the injection to someone else, the injection sites can include the upper arm, abdomen (belly), or thigh.
  - If you're injecting yourself, your injection sites can be your abdomen (belly) or thigh.
- 7. Clean the injection site with an alcohol wipe, and then let the skin dry before injecting.
  - Do not inject into skin that is bruised, tender, red, or hard.
  - If your injection site is the belly, do not inject within 2 inches of your belly button.

- Do not touch the cleaned injection site until your injection is completed.
- 8. Remove the autoinjector pen cap by pulling the cap straight off.
  - Do not twist the cap off.
  - Do not press the needle guard or try to put the cap back onto the pen, as this could cause a needle injury.
  - Make sure to complete the injection within 5 minutes after removing the pen cap.
- 9. If you are giving the injection to a child younger than 12 years old, use one hand to pinch a small amount of skin at the injection site before and during the injection.
  - Adults and children aged 12 years and older do not need to pinch the injection site skin.
- 10.Hold the autoinjector pen with the window facing you. Then place the autoinjector pen straight onto the injection site, with the needle guard flat on the surface of the skin so that the autoinjector pen is at a 90-degree angle to your skin (straight up).
- 11. Push the autoinjector pen all the way down until you hear a "click," which means the injection is starting.
  - Watch the window on the pen. As the medication is injection, the plunger will move down and fill the window.
  - Do not lift the autoinjector pen at this time, which could cause an incomplete injection of the medication. Keep holding the pen firmly against the skin until the injection is complete.
  - The injection may take up to 15 seconds to complete.
- 12.Continue to hold the autoinjector pen down until you hear a second "click" when the plunger has stopped and the window is completely filled. Then count to 5 before you lift the autoinjector pen away from the skin.
  - If you do not hear a second "click," check the window to make sure it's completely filled, or hold the pen down for at least 10 more

seconds to make sure the injection is complete.

- You may see a drop of blood or medication at the injection site. This is normal. Gently press a cotton ball or gauze on the injection site and put a bandage on it, if needed.
- Do not rub the injection site.

13.Put the used autoinjector pen and cap in an appropriate sharps disposal container. Do not put the cap back on the pen.

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by University of Michigan (U-M) Health for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by U-M Health and for which U-M Health does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition, or your treatment plan.

Author: Andrea McCaig, BSN RN
Reviewer: Toby Lewis, MD MPH
Edited by: Brittany Batell, MPH MSW CHES®
Instructions adapted from "INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE DUPIXENT®" ©2023 Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. / sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC. All rights reserved.

We value your feedback on our patient education materials! Visit <u>UMHPatientEd.org/PtEdSurvey</u> or scan the QR code to fill out a short feedback survey.



Patient Education by <u>U-M Health</u> is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License. Last revised 09/2025</u>