



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# ADMINISTERING VACCINES

Practice FAQs

December 2020

## QUESTION

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Will RTs be permitted to administer a COVID-19 vaccine?

## ANSWER

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RTs are authorized to “*administer a substance by injection...*” via various routes, including subcutaneous, intravascular, Intramuscular and Intradermal. What medications an RT can administer via these routes by injection depends on both professional scope of practice and personal competency.

For the administration of a medication to be within the scope of practice of Respiratory Therapy, it must be aimed to treat “*cardio-respiratory and associated disorders to maintain or restore ventilation*”. This includes influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccines, as well as the new COVID-19 vaccine.

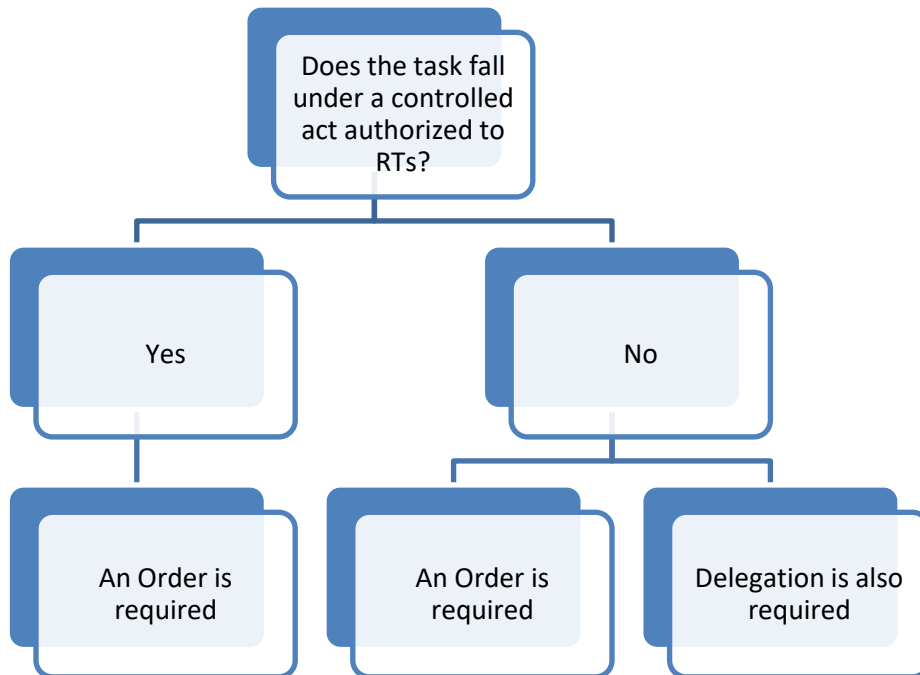
As with all other activities that an RT engages in, it is essential to obtain the requisite knowledge and skill to ensure the vaccine can be delivered in the safest possible manner. Having a mechanism to verify competency attainment is strongly recommended (e.g., record of attendance for training sessions, learning packages, etc.).

More information on the administration of substances by injection is outlined in the CRTO’s [Interpretation of Authorized Acts Professional Practice Guideline](#) (p. 10).



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If more information is require on this or other professional practice matters, please contact Carole Hamp, RRT – Deputy Registrar at [hamp@crto.on.ca](mailto:hamp@crto.on.ca).