



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTIONS

Practice FAQs

September 2016

QUESTION

Are RTs permitted to give subcutaneous injections? If so, what type of medication can we administer via that route?

ANSWER

The *Respiratory Therapy Act (RTA)* permits RTs to “administer a substance by injection or inhalation” and subcutaneous (SQ) is one of the possible injection routes of administration. As for what types of medications can be administered subcutaneously, the Scope of Practice statement in the *RTA* (s.3) requires that any medication administered by an RT be for the “...*treatment of cardio-respiratory and associated disorders to maintain or restore ventilation*”.

For example, it would be considered to be within the RT scope of practice to administer an SQ injection of Xylocaine or an Influenza vaccine. However, SQ Insulin injections are outside of the RT scope.

For more information, please see the CRTO [Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#) Professional Practice Guideline (p. 19).