

Freedom of Information Request	FOI 21-524	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021
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**When recently receiving my booster vaccine, I was advised that a 'memo' containing guidance was recently issued to immunisation staff within your health board concerning the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. I was advised that this document specifically prohibited staff from aspirating needles before administering the vaccine.**

**Can you please provide a copy of this document and/or provide more information to support this protocol?**

I would like to reassure you that all ABUHB Vaccinators are trained to the highest level using nationally set guidance based on the latest scientific evidence.

The Green Book for Immunisation and Vaccination provides the most current guidance for immunisation technique. Guidance from Chapter 4 of The Green Book states:

"IM injections should be given with the needle at a 90° angle to the skin and the skin should be stretched, not bunched. Deep SC injections should be given with the needle at a 45° angle to the skin and the skin should be bunched, not stretched. It is not necessary to aspirate the syringe after the needle is introduced into the muscle (WHO, 2004; Plotkin and Orenstein, 2004)".

I have provided the link below for you to view the guidance:-

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/147915/Green-Book-Chapter-4.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/147915/Green-Book-Chapter-4.pdf)

In conclusion I would like to assure you that whilst aspiration following Intramuscular injection was once the norm, nurses have been taught not to aspirate for a number of years. Our nurses follow guidance set nationally and the preferred vaccination sites include the deltoid, or vastus lateralis and are recommended due to their avoidance of any proximity to major blood vessels and nerves. Aspiration is NOT required for these sites. (Sisson 2016):-

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jocn.12824>