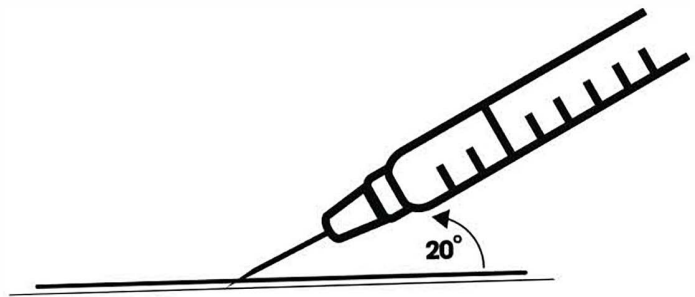


THE BEVEL



BEVEL DOWN / BEVEL UP

The bevel is at the tip of the syringe and has a slanted edge.

- Draw up from the cooker bevel down, so the flattest part of the needle is touching the bottom of the cooker to prevent dulling.
- If using a cotton filter, put the bevel on that to pull
- Avoid scraping the bevel around the cooker—it can dull the point
- Position the syringe, bevel up, at an angle (maximum 45 degrees between the syringe and the skin)
- This gives you more control and makes it easier to get the needle point inside the vein
- Injecting with the bevel facing up will minimize scar tissue and deliver the drugs more effectively, making for a more pleasurable experience

Choosing a syringe

Choosing the correct syringe is part of vein care. Try a few to see what works best

- The higher the number of the gauge (G) = the smaller the needle point.
- “cc” refers to the size of the barrel. **cc** means cubic centimeters
- Needle length is typically half inch long, or 5/8

27 gauge

- If you have trouble registering (veins move around or vein damage)
- If you inject cocaine, or crushed pills
- If you often inject in a hurry; can use to IM in a pinch

28 gauge

- If you're pretty good at hitting a vein
- If you can spend a little time finding a good vein
- Recommended for keeping veins healthy and reduce chances of scarring

29 gauge

- If you are good with precision
- Less scarring, it has a sharper point

30 gauge

- Better for small veins
- Excellent for minimal scarring
- Thicker shots/liquids might not work with smaller sizes

31 gauge (short tip)

- Has better action, good for using if you have trouble registering
- Less likely to puncture through veins (common cause of a "missed shot")

1 cc (full)

- Larger barrel makes it easier to go from site to site if you can't keep a vein
- Holds more water or diluted drug mixture = better for veins

½ cc

- Good for newer/occasional users
- If you have fewer problems hitting a vein
- Easy to hold (good for smaller hands, tremors, injection anxiety, use of non-dominant hand)

