

# HUMAN CHORIONIC GONADOTROPIN (HCG)

NOVAREL™

PREGNYL™



**NOTE:** *These medications may be given as a subcutaneous injection or an intramuscular injection depending on your physician's orders. Instructions for both are included.*

**Description:** A natural steroid hormone produced during pregnancy. It is given subcutaneously or intramuscularly, depending on your center's protocol and is given to trigger ovulation. It functions like natural LH by stimulating the “lead follicle” or the biggest follicle, to release its egg. It may be used in combination with clomiphene citrate and gonadotropins. It is packaged with either one vial of 5,000 IU or 10,000 IU (International Units) of powdered medication and one vial of diluent.

**How it works:** HCG is administered as an injection intramuscularly or subcutaneously depending on the physician's instructions. HCG is virtually identical to that of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). During the normal menstrual cycle, LH participates with follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) in the development and maturation of the normal ovarian follicle, and the mid-cycle LH surge triggers ovulation. During an assisted reproductive cycle (ART), HCG is used to induce egg maturation and trigger ovulation (the release of an egg(s) from the ovary) in women who have been treated with ovulation inducing medications.

**Potential side effects:** Though rare, it is possible to have some discomfort at the injection site as well as some mood changes, headache, bloating/edema, nausea and vomiting.

**Storage:** HCG 10,000 Units Vial - Store at room temperature (68-77°F). After reconstitution/mixing: Refrigerate and use within 60 days.

Novarel 5,000 Units Vial - Store at room temperature (68-77°F); excursions permitted between (59-86°F). After reconstitution/mixing: Refrigerate (36-46°F) and use within 30 days.

Pregnyl 10,000 Units Vial - Store at room temperature (59-86°F). After reconstitution/mixing: Refrigerate and use within 60 days.

## HCG MIXING INSTRUCTIONS

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- Pop off the plastic top of powdered medication and diluent (liquid).
- Swab the top of each vial with an alcohol pad to prevent contamination.
- Select a 3 ml syringe with 1 ½" needle for mixing. Twist to secure needle.
- Using your syringe, draw back 1 ml of air into the syringe.
- Firmly insert the needle through the rubber stopper into the vial of diluent. Invert, or turn upside down, the vial and syringe as one complete unit and depress the air into the vial in order to equalize the pressure, which will make withdrawal of the diluent easier. Once you depress the plunger of the air-filled syringe into the vial, make sure the tip of the needle is BELOW the liquid level and pull the plunger to withdraw 1 ml of the diluent.

***NOTE: The diluent vial contains excess diluent. Unless otherwise instructed by your physician, use ONLY 1 ml of diluent.***

- Slowly and cautiously deposit the diluent into the vial of powdered medication. Rotate the vial between your thumb and index finger until the solution is clear. Withdraw the newly mixed medication back into the syringe. Remove the syringe from the vial.
- Invert the syringe so the needle is pointing upwards and tap the syringe to force any air bubbles to the top. Depress the plunger to expel the air.

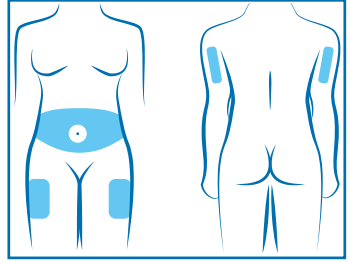
***If you are now ready for your subcutaneous injection, recap and remove the mixing needle by twisting and replace it with the smaller subcutaneous injection needle (usually ½" needle).  
PROCEED TO SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION INSTRUCTIONS***

***If you are now ready for your intramuscular injection, recap and remove the mixing needle by twisting and replace it with the intramuscular injection needle (usually 1 ½" needle).  
PROCEED TO INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION INSTRUCTIONS***

## INJECTION INSTRUCTIONS

### SUBCUTANEOUS INJECTION INSTRUCTIONS

- Cleanse your selected **SUBCUTANEOUS** injection site with an alcohol wipe and allow to dry.
- While holding the syringe with your dominant hand between your thumb and finger (as you would a pencil), pinch the skin (with your other hand) at the site you have selected.
- With a quick, dart-like motion, insert the entire needle (up to the hub of the syringe) at a 90° or a 45° angle and depress the plunger slowly and carefully.
- After the injection is complete, quickly pull out the needle. If bleeding, apply pressure to the injection site with a sterile gauze pad. If discomfort occurs after your injection, you may gently massage the injection site to alleviate your discomfort.
- Use Sharps waste container for needle and syringe.



### INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION INSTRUCTIONS

- Cleanse your selected **INTRAMUSCULAR** injection site with an alcohol wipe and allow to dry.
- Hold the syringe with your dominant hand between your thumb and index finger (as you would a pencil). With your other hand, firmly stretch your skin at the selected injection site. **Make sure you are using the intramuscular needle (usually 1 1/2").**
- **NOTE: To minimize bruising, firmly stretch the skin.**
- With a quick, dart-like motion, insert the entire needle (up to the hub of the syringe) at a 90° angle into the stretched skin area between your thumb and index finger.
- Using either hand to stabilize the syringe, pull back slightly on the plunger and watch for blood in the syringe. (This is rare). You may feel slight resistance or see a small bubble - this is normal. If blood is not seen in the syringe, the needle is inserted properly. **If blood appears in the syringe, DO NOT INJECT YOUR MEDICATIONS. Withdraw the needle, cover the site with a gauze pad, and apply pressure. Discard the syringe into the Sharps container. Repeat mixing and injection instructions.**
- Depress the plunger slowly and steadily.
- Pull the syringe out in one motion.
- Use Sharps waste container for needle and syringe.
- Apply pressure to the site with a gauze pad and gently massage the area to help disperse the medication and relieve discomfort. Apply a bandage if necessary.

