



Intravenous news: Infection Control Today report “A training syringe developed by University of New Hampshire nursing and engineering faculty members will help nurses and other healthcare professionals learn how to give the most effective intramuscular injections by providing real-time feedback.

Getting a yearly flu shot or other vaccination, while generally considered a wise health move, is hardly anyone’s idea of fun. Now, a breakthrough device from University of New Hampshire researchers aims to ensure that such shots are as effective and painless — as possible. UNH nursing and electrical engineering faculty have crossed departmental lines to create a “smart training syringe that will help nurses and other healthcare professionals learn how to give the most effective intramuscular injections by providing real-time feedback. Its the first device of its type ever created.

We want to be sure people are getting the medicine in the muscle where its going to work. This would be a way to ensure that people are getting immunized, says Paula McWilliam, assistant professor of nursing, who is collaborating with professor John LaCourse, chair of the department of electrical and computer engineering. Tyler Rideout, a graduate student in electrical and computer engineering, and undergraduates Amanda Makowiecki 14 (electrical engineering) and Holly Parker 13 (nursing) are assisting, as did Dana Daukssa 11 (biochemistry).

The project, which has produced a prototype training syringe, has its origins when McWilliam realized the dearth of both standardized procedures for giving intramuscular (IM) injections



and of teaching tools for helping new nurses learn to give injections. Although injections are common 16 billion are given per year and considered a basic skill, if they're not given properly, McWilliam says, their effectiveness at delivering medicine could be compromised.”

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