Like Driving a Car – Providing Immunizations

What concept in your discipline is like driving a car? Identify and explain the component skills required to master this concept or skill.

As a retired Public Health Nurse one of the skills that I used several times a shift was administering a vaccine to a client. There were several components to this skill that needed to be mastered, not unlike driving a car.

Immunization Competency Certificate

* Completing the immunization competency modules and scoring 100% on the exam
* Knowledge about what/how/when/where/why to administer a vaccine to a client
* Knowledge of Immunization Schedules for different age groups or specific high risk conditions
* How to store and transport vaccines safely

Informed Consent

* Prior to administering any medication a nurse is required to follow the steps of Informed Consent and provide that information to the client
* What are the benefits of receiving the vaccine?
* Is the client healthy and well? Currently Pregnant?
* Do they have any allergies?
* Has the client ever had any side effects to previous vaccines?
* Have they received this vaccine previously? Any side effects?
* Discuss possible Side effects that may occur
* Discuss aftercare (Tylenol or Ibuprofen etc.)
* Ask the client for consent to give the vaccine

How to provide an Intramuscular (IM) or subcutaneous (SC) injection:

* Choosing the correct sized syringe
* Choosing the correct sized needle
* Reconstituting the vaccine (if needed)
* Drawing up the vaccine
* Choosing the correct site (dependent on age/size of client and type of injection)
* Explaining to the client how you are going to administer the vaccine
* Assess for any anxiety related to injections and assist the client to relax
* Administering the vaccine safely

In the setting of a “mass” immunization clinic a Public Health Nurse might go through all the steps of getting an informed consent and administering a vaccine 10 to 12 times in an hour. Just thought this might be a timely example as we watch the Covid-19 vaccines roll out….