Subcutaneous Octreotide.

Indications:
Symptoms associated with carcinoid tumours. Insulinoma.
Previous intolerance of depot injections of somatostatin analogue.
Acromegaly – short term treatment prior to surgery.

Precautions;
Hepatic Impairment. Monitor thyroid function on long-term therapy.

Preparation:
Prior to appointment date obtain a once only prescription for Octreotide 50mcg S/C and an out patient prescription for a 1 week supply of Octreotide 50mcg. S/C three times per day. Check that pharmacy will have stock on the date of appointment. Request case notes.

Procedure:
Arrange morning appointments for patients.

On admission administer 50mcg. Octreotide S/C Octreotide should be removed from the fridge 30 minutes prior to injection. (Drug should reach room temperature; this helps make the injection less painful for the patient.) Patient should remain in the unit for a minimum observation period of four hours. Observe for side effects of Octreotide. These may include nausea, headache, and abdominal discomfort. If prescribed for patient with an insulinoma then monitor blood glucose hourly for the day. Use ward glucose meter. Patient should remain in the unit for the day, until around 4pm.

If no untoward side effects teach patient self injection technique and give supply of syringes needles from ward stock. Subsequent prescription & supplies to be prescribed by GP. Patient should leave with prescription for GP and hospital telephone numbers to contact if they experience any problems with injections.