PURPOSE:
To reduce pain and inflammation in joint tissues and surrounding structures, and suppress the disease process.

CONSIDERATIONS:
1. Gold injections are usually indicated for rheumatoid arthritis.
2. Gold, i.e., gold sodium thiomalate, aurothioglucose and auranopi are preferably given intramuscularly into gluteus muscles. Z-track method can also be used to lessen irritation to tissues.
3. The patient should recline for 10 to 20 minutes after the injection.
4. The color of gold is pale yellow. Discard if color has darkened.
5. Baseline lab values: protein urine test, complete blood count and platelet count are recommended prior to initial dose. Check with physician for protein urine tests and routine blood work. Complete blood work is recommended every 2 weeks.
6. First dose of gold is routinely administered in a controlled environment, e.g., hospital, physician's office, clinic, etc.
7. Instructions given to patient/caregiver.
8. Use at least 2 patient identifiers prior to administering medications.

EQUIPMENT:
Medical per physician's orders
Syringe (3 mL syringe)
Alcohol prep pad
Two 19- to 23-gauge needles, 1-2 inch
Puncture-proof container
Gloves
Urine dipsticks and anaphylaxis kit recommended

PROCEDURE:
1. Check doctor's order for medication, correct dose and route of administration.
2. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
3. Identify patient and explain procedure.
4. Check urine for protein. DO NOT give injection if urine is positive for protein. Notify physician.
5. Give injection using intramuscular method. (See Medications- Intramuscular Injection Administration.)
6. Patient should be observed for 15 to 30 minutes after administration of gold for possible anaphylactic reaction. Other side effects are dermatitis, stomatitis, depression of granulocytes and platelets, hepatitis, neuritis, proteinuria, rare nephrotic syndrome and exfoliative dermatitis. Report any side effects to physician.
7. Explain to patient that gold storage in the skin may lead to chrysiasis (a bronze or blue-gray color).
8. Instruct patient to report sore throat, fever or bruising to physician.

AFTER CARE:
1. Document in patient's record:
   a. Medication administered, dose, time, route and site.
   b. Patient's response to procedure, side effects and management.
   c. Instructions given to patient/caregiver.
   d. Communication with the physician, as needed.