Anaphylaxis Auto Adrenaline Injector Guidance for Health Care Professionals

Anaphylaxis safety advice for healthcare professionals and patients

In June 2023 the MHRA issued a Drug Safety Update[1] which contains new guidance to highlight the latest safety advice on the steps to take during anaphylaxis and advice to provide to patients and carers. This new guidance includes an easy step-by-step guide on what to do in an emergency and provides updated advice on body positioning. It contains an infographic and a link to a video regarding the correct use of an auto injector adrenaline (AAI) device for health care professionals. These materials can be used to inform patients and caregivers what do if they suspect anaphylaxis and how to use AAIs. The infographic in different languages is available at:

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) [2]

AAI use in schools

Refer to the medicines in schools FAQ question and answer guidance document[3] for further information on the use of an AAI in schools.

Key points for healthcare professionals to consider when prescribing and supplying an AAI:[1]

- Prescribers should **prescribe two AAIs** to make sure patients always have a backup.
- Prescribers should only prescribe a maximum of two AAIs and should not accept requests to prescribe more than two AAIs (for example if the patient/carer would like to hold additional pens in different locations).
- The patient should **carry TWO prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors ON THEM at ALL TIMES**. and must be advised to replace them before they expire.
- After acute anaphylaxis, two AAIs should be prescribed in Primary Care or in the Emergency Department before the patient is sent home and a specialist allergy appointment referral triggered.
- The specialist allergy service must undertake a thorough risk assessment to determine the continuing need for an AAI and where long-term provision may be required combined with advice on avoidance of triggers, a written anaphylaxis allergy plan and training in the use of the auto-injector.
- People with allergies & their carers MUST have been trained to use the auto-injector brand they have been prescribed. Prescribers should use the materials provided in the June 2023 MHRA Drug Safety Update[1] to inform patients and caregivers what do if they suspect anaphylaxis and how to use adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs)
- AAI should NOT be on repeat. Ensure a prescription is issued on basis of need i.e. evidence of expiry or use.
- If an AAI has been used, record the anaphylaxis event in Primary Care record and check patient is under a specialist service.
- Check dose is correct according to weight.
- AAI should be prescribed by brand, they are not interchangeable (trigger mechanisms and safety cap positions differ) The current licensed brands available are: Epipen®, Jext® and Emerade® and patients should always be prescribed the same brand, unless retraining is provided.
- Training on using specific brand should be given on initiation and reinforced at each Health Care Professional contact.
- If one pen has been used, only prescribe one replacement pen. This will ensure that the patient receives another pen with an alternative expiry date.
- **Include 'carry two pens at ALL times' on label dosage instruction.**

- Patients should be provided with an allergy action plan. This is available on Ardens AAI template and from an allergy society[4,5]. Please see examples of an adult and paediatric allergy action plan that can be provided:
  Adult allergy action plan
  Paediatric allergy action plan

	EPIPEN	JEXT	EMERADE
			
Pen Dose by weight	**Up to 25kg 150 mcg**	**15-30kg 150mcg**	**Up to 30kg 150mcg *(has been discontinued April 2022)***
	Over 25kg 300mcg	**Over 30kg 300 mcg**	**Over 30kg 300 mcg**
			Over 60KG 500 mcg dependent on clinical judgement
HCP Training	http://www.epipen.co.uk/hcp/	http://www.jext.co.uk/	http://www.emerade.com/hcp/adrenaline-auto-injector
Patient training	http://www.epipen.co.uk/patients/	http://www.jext.co.uk/	http://www.emerade-bausch.co.uk/patient/
STORAGE	Adrenaline is sensitive to light. Keep the auto-injector in the outer carton Do not store above 25 °C. Do not refrigerate or freeze. The solution is clear and colourless.		
SPC dose advice	Epipen	Jext	Emerade

References

1. MHRA Drug Safety Alert June 2023 for AAI Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs): new guidance and resources for safe use - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
2. MHRA Infographics for the correct use of an AAI June 2023 Adrenaline Auto-Injectors (AAIs) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
3. HWEICB Medicines in School (including the use of salbutamol inhalers and adrenaline auto-injectors) – Questions and Answers Guide download (hweclinicalguidance.nhs.uk)
4. Anaphylaxis UK Adult Anaphylaxis Action Plan Adult allergy action plan
5. British Society for Allergy and clinical immunology Paediatric allergy action plan (brand specific) Paediatric allergy action plan

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