

## Summary of the Guidance for Spare Adrenaline Auto Injector (AAIs) (Department of Health; October 2017)

- From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 will allow all schools to buy adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices without a prescription, for emergency use in children who are at risk of anaphylaxis but their own device is not available or not working (e.g. because it is broken or out of date)
- The school's spare AAI should only be used on pupils known to be at risk of anaphylaxis, for whom both medical authorisation and written parental consent for use of the spare AAI has been provided.
- The School's spare AAI can be administered to a pupil whose own prescribed AAI cannot be administered correctly without delay

### An Anaphylactic reaction always requires an emergency response

- Any AAIs held by a school should be considered a spare/back-up device and not a replacement for a pupil's own AAI(s).
- This change applies to all primary and secondary schools (including independent schools in the UK. Schools are not required to hold AAI(s) – this is a discretionary change enabling schools to do so if they wish.
- Those schools that choose to hold a spare AAIs should establish a policy or protocol for their use in line with "Supporting Pupils at School with medical conditions: Statutory guidance for governing bodies for maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England (Supporting Pupils) and with reference to the guidance in this document.
- Schools may administer their "spare" adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) without prescription for use in emergencies, if available, **but only to a pupil at risk of anaphylaxis, where both medical authorisation and written parental consent for use of the "spare" AAI has been provided.**
- **The School's spare AAI can be administered to a pupil whose own prescribed AAI cannot be administered correctly without delay**
- **If someone appears to be having a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) you MUST call 999 without delay, even if they have already used their own AAI device, or spare AAI**
- **In the event of a possible severe allergic reaction in a pupil who does not meet these criteria, emergency services (999) should be contacted and advice sought from them as to whether administration of the spare emergency AAI is appropriate.**

### Arrangements for the supply, storage, care and disposal of AAIs

- Schools can purchase AAIs from a pharmaceutical supplier, such as a local pharmacy, without prescription, provided the general advice relating to these transactions are observed i.e. small quantities on an occasional basis and the school does not intend to profit from it. A supplier will need a request signed by the principal or head teacher (ideally on appropriate headed paper) stating:
  - the name of the school for which the product is required
  - the purpose for which that product is required, and the total quantity required

- a template letter which can be used for this purpose can be downloaded at:  
[www.sparepensinschools.uk](http://www.sparepensinschools.uk)