

TEMPORARILY AMENDED FOR COVID PANDEMIC:

Valid until April 2021

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the administration of adrenaline (epinephrine) using an auto injector (pen device) in community settings.

***All Staff required to use these Standard Operating Procedures MUST have received training and been assessed as competent in each relevant procedure**

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Documents to be read alongside this document:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards of best practice and standard operating procedures for medicines management for all care settings final April 2020 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for Domiciliary setting in North Wales (April 2020) Standard Operating Procedures SOP's) for Care Home setting in North Wales (April 2020) Dougherty L. & Lister S. (2011) The Royal Marsden Hospital Manual of Clinical Nursing Royal Pharmaceutical Society Professional Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Healthcare Settings. (January 2019) The All Wales Guidelines for Delegation Health Education and Improvement Wales for Health and Social care (HEIW 2020) National Guiding Principles for Medicines Support in the Domiciliary Care Sector (ADSS Cymru 2019) COVID- 19 Medication administration training (HEIW 2020) 				
Date of next review:	April 2021				
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Changes made yes/no:	yes	yes	yes		

Standard Operating Procedure for the administration of adrenaline (epinephrine) using an auto injector (pen device) in community settings.

Advice: - Adrenaline for administration by intramuscular injection is available in 'auto-injectors' (e.g. Emerade®, EpiPen®, or Jext®), pre-assembled syringes fitted with a needle suitable for very rapid administration (if necessary by a bystander or a healthcare provider if it is the only preparation available).

Packs for self-administration should **be clearly labelled with the citizen/ residents name and instructions** on how to administer adrenaline and an **information leaflet should be included in the box**. It is important to ensure individuals at risk and their carers understand that:

1. Two injection devices should be carried at all times to treat symptoms until medical assistance is available; if, after the first injection, the individual does not start to feel better, the second injection should be given 5 to 15 minutes after the first;
2. An ambulance should be called after every administration, even if symptoms improve;
3. The individual should lie down with their legs raised (unless they have breathing difficulties, in which case they should sit up) and should not be left alone.
4. **The adrenaline auto-injector can only be used once and then must be disposed of safely.**

Symptoms of anaphylaxis reactions:

Symptoms can develop rapidly within minutes or over a period of hours after the contact with an allergen.

Critical symptoms include:

- Itching all over body or in only one or two places
- Red, blotchy raised rash like nettle stings (urticaria)
- Wheezing (like asthma)
- Causing difficulty in or noisy breathing
- Vomiting and /or diarrhoea
- Swelling, particularly around the mouth and throat
- Swelling round the eyes
- Feels unable to swallow or dribbling
- Fainting or collapse

	Action	Rationale
1.	Keep pen in package and store at room temperature. Check expiry date regularly	To protect from light
2.	Before administering any prescribed medication, checks the patient's Medication Administration record (MAR) or equivalent chart for the following. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The correct patient• Correct adrenaline auto pen is selected• Date and time of application• Expiry date	To prevent any errors occurring
3.	If citizen is unconscious then place in the recovery position, loosen clothing and do not over crowd.	Citizen is in the correct position to receive treatment

	If conscious, the individual should lie down with their legs raised (unless they have breathing difficulties, in which case they should sit up) and should not be left alone.	
4.	There is no need to remove any light clothing as the auto-injector can be administered straight through material. The site for administration is the upper outer quarter, mid way between hip and knee	Correct site of injection
7.	Grasp the auto-injector in dominant hand (the hand you use to write), with thumb nearest safety cap or shield and form a fist around pen (tip down). Remove the safety cap or shield.	Preparation before administration
5.	<p>Epipen®:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull off the blue safety cap • Hold the pen device at a distance of approximately 10 cm away from the outer thigh. Jab orange tip of the Epipen® firmly into outer thigh at a right angle (90 degree angle) (listen for click). • Hold firmly against thigh for 10 seconds. • Remove Epipen® (the needle cover will extend to cover needle) <p>Jext®:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove yellow cap • Place black tip against the outer thigh then push injector firmly into thigh until it 'clicks' and • Hold for 10 seconds. • Remove Jext® (the needle cover will extend to cover needle) <p>Emerade®</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove needle shield from device • Hold the pen device against the outer thigh then push injector firmly into thigh and hold for 5 seconds • Remove Emerade® (the needle cover will extend to cover needle) 	<p>Check and prepare the medication according to the manufacturers' instruction</p> <p>NB. Injection technique is device specific, see training videos on line.</p>
8.	Massage the injection area for 10 seconds	To aid circulation and distribution of the medication
9.	Dispose of the auto-injector safely – either give the used device to the paramedics to dispose of or put it back into the box and then take it back to the community pharmacy.	To maintain a safe working environment
10.	Record the administration on the MAR charts and document in the citizen's care plan. Record site, dose and time given on the MAR chart and outcome in the citizen's care plan. Notify carers/ medical staff of anaphylactic episode.	To maintain accurate records (see section Medication Record Keeping in Domiciliary care) and provide a point of reference in the event of any queries and prevent any duplication of treatment
11.	Get urgent medical attention: dial 999	To obtain medical help
12.	If the ambulance services have not arrived 15 minutes after the first adrenaline (epinephrine) pen has been administered then a second	A citizen can have no more than two adrenaline auto-injector administrations

	adrenaline (epinephrine) pen can be administered (follow the above guidelines)	
13.	Document the administration of adrenaline auto injector on MAR or equivalent chart and in the citizen's notes. Contact the line manager and Care Provider to inform them of the situation	To aid communication and audit trail.
14.	Ensure that a replacement auto injector is obtained from the GP.	To maintain a safe system of care