

Adrenalin Auto Injectors and EpiPen Use Policy

Written by: Unknown original author Date: Circa 2014
Approved by: College of Management Date:
Council of Trustees Date:

History of review: This is the 1st revision of this policy. Changes reflect Department of Health guidance, affect language and bring the document into policy format.

Reviewed by: Kaycee Fordham Date: February 2018.

Date for next review: September 2019

Policy Statement

A person who has a severe allergic reaction can die quickly if their airway swells shut. This reaction can occur from insect stings or bites, food, drugs, latex, other allergens, exercise, or even unknown causes.

The school acknowledges that proper, timely use of an Adrenalin Auto Injector or EpiPen can save the person's life.

Whenever possible, the school will rely on the Administering Medicines Policy in relation to AAI and EpiPen use, however, in an emergency situation such as the case of anaphylaxis in a pupil with no known pre-existing allergy or health condition requiring a prescribed AAI / EpiPen, the school will refer to this policy, in line with the guidance issued by the Department of Health which states that schools may administer a pupil's own prescribed AAI or EpiPen, and/or administer its spare AAI or EpiPen, obtained without prescription, in the following emergency circumstances ONLY:

- Where a pupil is at risk of anaphylaxis **and**,
- Where both medical authorisation and written parental consent for use of the spare AAI has been provided.

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.

Scope

This policy relates to all pupils on roll and affects all staff.

Aims

The school's primary aim is to ensure the safety, health and wellbeing of all pupils on its roll, through the effective management of serious allergies and the proper administration of AAIs and EpiPens in emergency situations.

Procedure

Recognition and management of an allergic reaction/anaphylaxis

Signs and symptoms include:

Mild-moderate allergic reaction:

- Swollen lips, face or eyes
- Itchy/tingling mouth
- Hives or itchy skin rash
- Abdominal pain or vomiting
- Sudden change in behaviour

ACTION:

- Stay with the child, call for help if necessary
- Locate adrenaline autoinjector(s)
- Give antihistamine according to the child's allergy treatment plan
- Phone parent/emergency contact



Watch for signs of ANAPHYLAXIS (life-threatening allergic reaction):

AIRWAY:	Persistent cough Hoarse voice Difficulty swallowing, swollen tongue
BREATHING:	Difficult or noisy breathing Wheeze or persistent cough
CONSCIOUSNESS:	Persistent dizziness Becoming pale or floppy Suddenly sleepy, collapse, unconscious

IF ANY ONE (or more) of these signs are present:

1. Lie child flat with legs raised:
(if breathing is difficult, allow child to sit)   
2. Use Adrenaline autoinjector* **without delay**
3. Dial 999 to request ambulance and say ANAPHYLAXIS

***** IF IN DOUBT, GIVE ADRENALINE *****

After giving Adrenaline:

1. Stay with child until ambulance arrives, do **NOT** stand child up
2. Commence CPR if there are no signs of life
3. Phone parent/emergency contact
4. If no improvement **after 5 minutes**, give a **further dose** of adrenaline using another autoinjector device, if available.

Anaphylaxis may occur without initial mild signs: **ALWAYS use adrenaline autoinjector FIRST in someone with known food allergy who has SUDDEN BREATHING DIFFICULTY** (persistent cough, hoarse voice, wheeze) – even if no skin symptoms are present.

All school staff are expected to have an awareness of the signs and symptoms of allergic reaction / anaphylaxis as set out above.

In the event of suspected allergic reaction and/or anaphylaxis, the responding adult or pupil should send for a First Aider immediately, remaining with the unwell party until the trained First Aider arrives.

In the case of anaphylaxis:

- Responding adults who are not trained First Aiders should call for help and remain with the pupil.
- Upon arrival, First Aider to check the Airway, Breathing and Consciousness of the pupil as set out in the diagram above.
- If pupil presents any signs of anaphylaxis, the First Aider should lie pupil flat with legs raised (if breathing is difficult, allow child to sit).
- First Aider or supporting adult should, where possible, locate the prescribed AAI / EpiPen for the pupil. Where this is not possible, the supporting adult should locate the school's own AAI / EpiPen as quickly as possible, ensuring the school has both medical authorisation and written parental consent for use of the 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.**
- First Aider should use Adrenalin Autoinjector (AAI) or EpiPen without delay, following the instructions provided by the manufacturer, or as set out in the attached appendix.
- Supporting adult to Dial 999 to request ambulance and say 'ANAPHYLAXIS'.

**** IF IN DOUBT, GIVE ADRENALINE****

- After giving adrenaline, First Aider to stay with the pupil until the ambulance arrives. Do NOT stand the child up.
- First Aider to commence CPR if there are no signs of life.
- Supporting adult to phone parent/emergency contact.
- First Aider to observe pupil. If there is no improvement after 5 minutes, First Aider to give a further dose of adrenaline using another AAI / EpiPen device, if available.

Practical points:

- When dialling 999, the responding adult should give clear and precise directions to the emergency operator, including the postcode of your location: South Devon Steiner School, Hood Manor, Dartington. TQ9 6AB. Telephone: 01803-897377.
- If the pupil's condition deteriorates and a second dose adrenaline is administered after making the initial 999 call, the responding adult should make a second call to the emergency services to confirm that an ambulance has been dispatched.
- First Aider to send someone outside to the school carpark entrance, to direct the ambulance paramedics when they arrive, ensuring they have a banks person to cross the playgrounds with the ambulance where necessary.
- Tell the paramedics:
 - if the child is known to have an allergy;

- what might have caused this reaction e.g. recent food;
- the time the AAI was given.

Controls

- First Aid Coordinator to ensure that prescribed AAI's / EpiPens are stored safely and that all First Aiders know where to find them in the case of an emergency.
- First Aid Coordinator to ensure that prescribed and spare AAI's / EpiPens are in date.
- First Aid Coordinator to ensure that the necessary medical authority and parental consent for use of AAI's and EpiPens has been obtained and is held on file centrally for easy access in the event of an emergency.
- School to ensure that central database is populated with accurate information relating to pupils, particularly in relation to health and wellbeing.
- School to ensure that a high number of school staff are trained First Aiders able to quickly respond in an emergency.
- School staff to familiarise themselves with how to administer an AAI or EpiPen using the resources contained in the Information/Advice/Guidance section below.

Information/advice/guidance

- DoH document: Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645476/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf
- Website: <http://www.epipen.co.uk/patients/epipenr-user-guide/>

Compliance

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations 1981 (as amended)
- Independent School Standards Part 3, Paragraph 13
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (2016)

References

- Health & Safety Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Administering Medicines Policy

Guide to Using Your EpiPen® and Trainer Pen

Using your **EpiPen®** is easy, especially if you practise using your Trainer Pen. Familiarise yourself with these simple steps and watch the demonstration video so you are clear about what to do in an emergency.

There is no need to remove clothing to use your **EpiPen®**, but make sure the orange end will not hit buckles, zips, buttons or thick seams on your clothes.

To remove **EpiPen®** from the carry case. Flip open the lid on the carry case. Tip the carry case and slide the **EpiPen®** out of the carry case.

Lie down with your legs slightly elevated to keep your blood flowing or sit up if breathing is difficult.

1 **Pull off Blue Safety Cap.**
Grasp **EpiPen®** in dominant hand, with thumb nearest blue cap and form fist around **EpiPen®** and pull off the blue safety cap. Remember: "Blue to the sky, orange to the thigh".

2 **Position Orange Tip.**
Hold the **EpiPen®** at a distance of approximately 10 cm away from the outer thigh. The orange tip should point towards the outer thigh.

3 **Jab Orange Tip.**
Jab the **EpiPen®** firmly into outer thigh at a right angle (90° angle). Hold firmly against thigh for 3 seconds. **EpiPen®** should be removed and safely discarded. The orange needle cover will extend to cover the needle.

4 **Dial 999.**
Dial 999, ask for ambulance and state "anaphylaxis".