

# **Epinephrine Stock Medication Procedure and Anaphylaxis Management**

## **Purpose and Background**

The purpose of epinephrine standing orders and school-supplied epinephrine for injection is for the safety and well-being of students who experience an anaphylactic reaction in response to an allergen. Common causes of anaphylaxis include allergies to stinging insects (e.g., bees, wasps, hornets, yellow jackets and fire ants), biting insects (e.g., triatoma, mosquitoes), allergen immunotherapy, foods, drugs, diagnostic testing substances (e.g., radiocontrast media) and other allergens, as well as idiopathic anaphylaxis or exercise-induced anaphylaxis.

Anaphylaxis is described as the sudden onset of:

- generalized itching, erythema (redness), or urticaria (hives);
- angioedema (swelling of the lips, face and throat);
- severe bronchospasm (wheezing);
- shortness of breath;
- shock;
- abdominal cramping;
- cardiovascular collapse

## **Standing Orders**

Standing orders must be updated and signed annually by the district medical advisor. The standing order permits all appropriate medical and school personnel (including, but not limited to any registered nurse) employed by or acting on behalf of the school system to administer Epinephrine via an undesignated Epinephrine auto injector to an individual using professional judgment, if that individual is experiencing a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

## **Emergency Treatment Procedure**

The following treatment Protocol will be utilized to manage anaphylactic reactions.

1. Dosage: If conditions of anaphylaxis are developing or present themselves, administer EpiPen or EpiPen JR auto-injector, or the authorized generic for EpiPen or EpiPen JR, intramuscularly into the anterolateral (upper, front) aspect of the thigh (through clothing if necessary). Selection of the appropriate dosage strength (EpiPen 0.3 mg or EpiPen JR 0.15 mg, or the authorized generics of these strengths) is determined according to an individual's body weight, as discussed in the product labeling.
  - For individuals 33 to 66 pounds, use one EpiPen Jr auto-injector, or the authorized generic, to deliver 0.15 mg epinephrine.
  - For individuals 66 pounds or greater, use one EpiPen auto-injector or the authorized generic, to deliver 0.3 mg epinephrine.

**\*\*\*If epinephrine is administered, 911 must be called immediately\*\*\***

2. **Monitoring:** Closely monitor the individual until EMS arrives. Perform CPR and maintain the airway, if necessary. Keep the individual in a supine position (lying flat, face up) unless he/she is having difficulty breathing. If having difficulty breathing, the patient's head may be elevated, provided blood pressure is adequate to prevent loss of consciousness.
3. **Frequency:** If EMS has not arrived and symptoms persist, a second dose of epinephrine may be administered 5-10 minutes after the first dose. More than two sequential doses of epinephrine for the same episode should be administered only under direct medical supervision.
4. **Referral:** The individual must be referred to a physician for medical evaluation, even if the symptoms resolve completely. Symptoms may reoccur after the Epinephrine wears off, as much as 24 hours later.
5. **Documentation and Notification:** The details of the incident must be documented and the individual's parent/guardian must be notified.

### **Identifying the School Team**

Team members who should be involved in responding to an anaphylactic emergency, if necessary, may include: School District Administrators, School Nurse, Teachers, Aides, Food Service Personnel, Coaches, Athletic Director and After-school volunteers, Transportation Personnel and any other staff as delegated by School Administrators or the School Nurse.

### **Training of Staff**

Annual emergency medication training for school staff should include training in the use of epinephrine auto injections, using the knowledge and hands-on training guidelines of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Training programs from the American Heart Association, Red Cross or other health education organizations may also be used. Training may be requested at any time from the District School Nurse.

### **Location of Stock Epinephrine Auto-injectors**

Stock EpiPens, or the authorized generic, will be maintained by the District School Nurse. EpiPens, or the authorized generic, are located in the upstairs gym, lower elementary hallway, and the upper middle school hallway in unlocked and labeled, yellow EpiPen lockers.

### **Liability**

Wonewoc-Union Center School District's staff and school nurse who administer epinephrine auto-injectors are immune from civil liability for any harm that may result, regardless of whether there is a parental or medical provider's authorization, unless the administration was a result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.