Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Summary

- Prescribe by brand name to ensure that patients have the device they have been trained on.
- Patients must carry two auto-injectors with them at all times.
- Ensure that the correct strength is given.

Aim/Purpose/Background

- Injection technique is device specific.
- Dose recommendation: see specific device, BNF 3.4.3.
- The Resuscitation council (UK) recommends that patients use one auto-injector immediately at the first sign of a severe reaction. If the patient does not recover within 5-15 minutes a second auto-injector should be used.
- NICE guidance (134 Anaphylaxis) recommends offering patients adrenaline auto-injector for suspected anaphylaxis, whilst waiting for specialist allergy service review.
- Emerade, Jext and Epipen are currently licensed in the UK at doses of 150mcg and 300mcg. Emerade is also available as a 500mcg strength but the place in therapy is unclear and it is anticipated to be used in secondary care only.
- Patients must check expiry dates of devices and obtain replacement before they expire.

Guidance for Action

- Speak to lead GP and obtain permission to carry out the project.
- **Patients with prescriptions for generic adrenaline pen:** Search for all patients prescribed a generic adrenaline pen. Contact the patient to find out which device the patient has been trained on. Also check that they have 2 devices that are in date and highlight the need to keep 2 devices with them at all times. Complete a list of patients and obtain GP permission to alter prescriptions to branded products. Arrange to issue prescription, if necessary, to ensure that all patients have 2 current devices.
- **Patients with branded adrenaline pen:** Search for all patients with branded adrenaline pens. Contact all patients to check that they have 2 devices that are in date and highlight the need to keep 2 devices with them at all times. Arrange to issue prescription, if necessary, to ensure that all patients have 2 current devices.
- For all patients add a script note to the repeat prescription to indicate that devices should be prescribed by brand and that patients need to have 2 devices available to them.
- All signed spreadsheets must be scanned onto the practice system as a permanent record of agreement to change.