

Adrenaline Auto-Injectors

Aim

To improve safety of prescribing and use of adrenaline auto-injectors by:

- Prescribing by brand name to ensure that patients receives the device they have been trained to use.
- Ensure patients carry two auto-injectors with them at all times.
- Ensure that the correct strength is available and given to the patient.

Background/Summary

1. Injection technique for adrenaline autoinjectors is device specific.
2. For further information on use refer to the CCG guidelines 'Adrenaline Auto-Injectors for Self-Administration- Summary for Prescribers'
<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/easysiteweb/getresource.axd?assetid=18443&type=0&servicetype=1>
3. For dose recommendations: please check up to date advice via the Summary of Product Characteristics for specific device. See EMc.
4. NICE guidance regarding the management of anaphylaxis (134 Anaphylaxis) recommends offering patients adrenaline auto-injector for suspected anaphylaxis, whilst waiting for specialist allergy service review.
5. **Emerade® was recalled as a safety measure and is currently out of stock (June 2020)**, Jext® and Epipen® are currently licensed in the UK at doses of 150microgram and 300microgram. **Emerade® (was recalled for safety reasons and is currently out of stock; June 2020)** is also available as a 500microgram strength for patients at risk of severe anaphylaxis.
For further information on product availability visit our netFormulary pages:
<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughformulary.nhs.uk/chaptersSubDetails.asp?FormularySectionID=3&SubSectionRef=03.04.03&SubSectionID=B100&drugmatch=254#254>
6. Patients must check expiry dates of devices and obtain replacements before they expire. Patients should be encouraged to sign up for the expiry alert service on the individual manufacturer's website.
7. Adrenaline auto-injectors should be issued as an acute prescription, repeated as needed and on expiry only.

Guidance for Action

8. Speak to lead GP and obtain permission to carry out the project.
9. Check the CCG website for current stock availability and recommendations at
<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/health-professionals/prescribing-information/current-stock-shortages/> and
<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughformulary.nhs.uk/default.asp>.
10. Identify:
 - **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:** Remove any adrenaline auto-injectors which are on repeat issue. Record the brand of auto-injector in 'other' medications and add a note that devices should be prescribed by brand and that patients need to have 2 devices available to them.
- **For paediatric patients:** obtain an accurate, recent weight and check that the dose is appropriate, if in doubt make an appointment at the surgery to check this.

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References

1. C & P CCG guidelines Adrenaline Auto-Injectors for Self- Administration- Summary for Prescribers
<https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/easysiteweb/getresource.axd?assetid=18443&type=0&servicetype=1>
2. NICE Clinical guidance (CG134) Anaphylaxis: assessment and referral after emergency treatment. December 2011; Updated 2016. Accessed June 2020 via <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG134>
3. Summary of Product Characteristics. Various. Access via Electronic Medicines Compendium at <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/>
4. Ewan P, Braithwaite N et al. BSACI guideline: prescribing an adrenaline auto-injector. Clinical & Experimental Allergy, 2016 (46): 1258-1280. Accessed June 2020 via <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/cea.12788>.
5. Resuscitation Council UK - Statement on Anaphylactic Guidelines. Available at: <https://resus.org.uk/media/statements/statement-on-anaphylactic-guidelines/> (Accessed June 2020).
6. MHRA Drug Safety Update. August 2017: Adrenaline auto-injectors: updated advice after European review. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/adrenaline-auto-injectors-updated-advice-after-european-review> (Accessed June 2020).