

# USE OF EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS

Code **JLCDB** Issued **1/14**

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Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the use of epinephrine auto-injectors in the district.

The board recognizes that on occasion an emergency situation may arise when a school nurse or other designated school personnel believes in good faith that a student or an individual on school premises is experiencing anaphylaxis, a life-threatening type of allergic reaction. State law permits physicians and certain medical personnel licensed to prescribe medications to prescribe epinephrine auto-injectors maintained in the name of a school. A school may maintain a stock supply of epinephrine auto-injectors in accordance with a prescription issued pursuant to the Safe Access to Vital Epinephrine (SAVE) Act.

Pursuant to state law and in accordance with this policy, the board authorizes school nurses and other designated school personnel to utilize epinephrine auto-injectors in the following circumstances.

- provide an epinephrine auto-injector to a student to self-administer in accordance with a prescription specific to the student that is on file with the school
- administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student in accordance with a prescription specific to the student that is on file with the school
- administer an epinephrine auto-injector to a student or other individual on school premises whom the school nurse or other designated school personnel believes in good faith is experiencing anaphylaxis, in accordance with a standing protocol of a physician, an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant licensed to prescribe medication pursuant to state law, regardless of whether the student or other individual has a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector

The superintendent or his/her designee, in consultation with the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, will develop and implement a plan to authorize the district schools to maintain a supply of undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors and to provide and administer epinephrine auto-injectors to students and other people. The plan will provide for the management of students with life-threatening allergies enrolled in the schools of the district, and must include, but need not be limited to, the following.

- education and training for school personnel on the management of students with life-threatening allergies, including training related to the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector; techniques on how to recognize symptoms of severe allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis; and the standards and procedures for the storage and administration of an epinephrine auto-injector
- procedures for responding to life-threatening allergic reactions, including emergency follow-up procedures
- a process for the development of individualized health care and allergy action plans for every student with a known life-threatening allergy

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The superintendent or his/her designee will make the plan available to the public on the district's website or by other means as determined by the superintendent.

No one, including without limitation parents/legal guardians of students, should rely on a school of this district for the availability of an epinephrine auto-injector. This policy does not guarantee the availability of an epinephrine auto-injector; students and their parents/legal guardians should consult their own physician regarding this medication.

The SAVE Act provides school boards, districts, schools, school nurses and/or other designated school personnel immunity from liability for damages caused by injuries to a student or another person resulting from the administration or self-administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and plan development and implementation as allowed and set forth under the Act. This immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross negligence or willful, wanton or reckless conduct.

The district will provide a student with a known life-threatening allergy an individual healthcare and allergy action plan pursuant to policy JLCD (Assisting Students with Medications) and its accompanying administrative rule.

Adopted 1/27/2014

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Legal references:

- A. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
  - 1. Section 59-63-95, et.seq - Safe Access to Vital Epinephrine Act.

## Epinephrine Standing Order Protocol

I, the undersigned Physician, for the purpose of facilitating the use of Epinephrine in the case of Potentially Life-Threatening Allergic Reactions (anaphylaxis) in individuals and in compliance with all applicable state laws and regulations, issue this Epinephrine Standing Order Protocol ("Protocol") on the following terms:

Physician License: I represent that I: (a) am licensed to prescribe legend drugs in this state as set forth below; (b) am qualified to practice medicine in this state; and (c) am in good standing with the appropriate professional licensing board.

Epinephrine: This Protocol constitutes my standing order for the treatment of anaphylaxis and the use of Epinephrine in emergency situations as further described below in a school setting.

Delegation: I, the undersigned Physician, delegate authority to all appropriate medical and school personnel employed by or acting on behalf of the below described school system.

Issued to:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of School/ District

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, Zip Code

Standing Order: All appropriate medical and school personnel (including, but not limited to, any Registered Nurse) employed by or acting on behalf of the school system may administer Epinephrine via an undesignated Epinephrine auto-injector to an individual using professional judgment if an individual is experiencing a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction, such as anaphylaxis.

Emergency Treatment Procedures: The following treatment Protocol will be utilized to manage anaphylactic reactions. Anaphylaxis is described as the sudden onset of generalized itching, erythema (redness), or urticaria (hives); angioedema (swelling of the lips, face, or throat); severe bronchospasm (wheezing); shortness of breath; shock; abdominal cramping; or cardiovascular collapse. In the event of a serious adverse reaction, including anaphylaxis, the following shall be done:

1. **Symptoms:** If itching and swelling are confined to a localized area, observe the patient closely for the development of generalized symptoms. If symptoms are generalized, activate the emergency medical system (e.g., call 911). This should be accomplished by a second person while the individual is being evaluated and managed by the first person.

2. **Dosage:** If conditions of anaphylaxis are developing or present themselves, administer Epinephrine USP, 1 mg/mL, (1:1000) as epinephrine auto-injector, EpiPen, intramuscularly into the antero-lateral aspect of the thigh (through clothing if necessary) according to the manufacturer's recommendation.

For individuals less than 66 pounds, use one EpiPen Jr. (0.3 mL epinephrine injection, USP, 1:2000) auto-injector to deliver 0.15 mg of epinephrine injection, USP.

For individuals 66 pounds and greater, use one EpiPen (0.3 mL epinephrine injection, USP, 1:1000) auto-injector to deliver 0.3 mg of epinephrine injection, USP.

3. **Monitoring:** Closely monitor the individual until EMS arrives. Perform CPR and maintain airway, if necessary. Keep the individual in a supine position unless he/she is having difficulty breathing. If having

difficulty breathing the individual's head may be elevated, provided blood pressure is adequate to prevent loss of consciousness.

5. **Frequency:** Monitor vital signs frequently. If EMS has not arrived and symptoms persist, a repeat dose of Epinephrine auto-injector every 5-20 minutes after the first dose may be administered.

6. **Referral:** The individual must be referred to a physician for medical evaluation, even if symptoms resolve completely. Symptoms may recur after the Epinephrine wears off, as much as 24 hours later.

7. **Documentation:** The details of the incident must be immediately documented in a writing.

8. **Notification:** Within 4 hours, the school must notify the individual's parent, guardian or caretaker and must notify the individual's primary care physician of the anaphylactic reaction.

*Note: Epinephrine Auto-Injectors are available in 0.3mg dose (EpiPen 1:1000) and 0.15mg dose (EpiPen Junior 1:1000). Using two 0.15 doses to obtain 0.3mg dose is permissible.*

In every case, emergency services must be contacted as soon as possible by calling 911.

Please review the attached prescription:

Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician State of License \_\_\_\_\_

Physician State License Number \_\_\_\_\_

Strength	Quantity Requested
0.3mg EpiPen 2-Pak	
0.15mg EpiPenJr 2-Pak	

*\*Please note there are two auto-injectors per EpiPen 2-Pak or EpiPenJr 2-Pak. Example: If you wish to order 100 EpiPen Auto-injectors and 80 EpiPenJr Auto-injectors, put the number 50 in quantity requested box next to the 0.3mg EpiPen 2-Pak and 40 in the quantity requested box next to the 0.15mg EpiPenJr 2-Pak.*