

March 12, 2008

Dear EMS Provider:

On December 13, 2006, the Department of Health and Senior Services (the Department) introduced the Epinephrine Auto Injector Interim Policy. Throughout the year the Department monitored the use of the epinephrine auto injector. With input from the pre-hospital emergency medical advisory committees and the emergency services community, the Department has made the following revisions to enhance this policy:

- In paragraph (a) we added “Emergency services vehicles” in addition to ambulances;
- In paragraph (b) after “shall” and prior to “administer” we removed the text “possess and”;
- In paragraph (d) we added “Fire and police department’s, or other entities employing EMT-Basics” to those agencies who can administer the epinephrine auto injector under this policy, we replaced “may” with “shall”, after “shall” and prior to “administer” we removed the text “possess and”;
- In paragraph (f) section 2, we added a verbal notification requirement to the Department within 72 hours of the administration/use of the epinephrine auto injector;
- In paragraph (h) we removed the text “if any of the following signs and symptoms” and replaced it with “if a patient presents with clinical evidence of allergic reaction/anaphylactic shock that may include the following signs/symptoms”;
- In paragraph (i) we added guidelines to allow ten minutes between doses for patients who have administered their own epinephrine auto injector prior to the arrival of emergency services personnel;
- In paragraph (j) we added an epinephrine auto injector is a single use device under this policy, and removed all references to the EpiPen and replaced such references with generic “epinephrine auto injector” as prescribed by the physician medical director.

All agencies should now be using the Learning Management System (LMS) for EMT-Basic and Continuing Education programs.

A standardized education program for the epinephrine auto injector has been placed on the LMS in the "Library" section. In order to receive EMT-B Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for the epinephrine auto injector training, an application for a CEU class must be completed on the LMS 30 days prior to the start of the program in accordance with N.J.A.C. 8:40A -9.3. The application must include the name of the physician medical director or the official designee.

In the first year of this initiative, over 180 agencies have registered with the Department. There have been 14 reported uses of the epinephrine auto injector.

EMT-Basics are reminded that they must be functioning as part of a registered agency in order to stock and/or administer an epinephrine auto injector. Individuals shall not carry this medication in their personal vehicles or as part of their personal response equipment.

The Department appreciates the dedicated EMTs of the registered epinephrine auto injector agencies and continues to encourage applicable agencies to participate in this life saving initiative.

Sincerely,

Karen Halupke RN, M.Ed.
Director