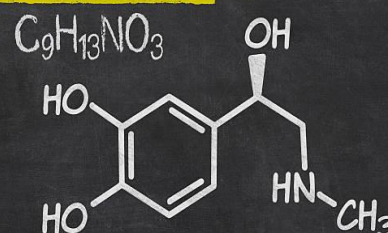


Adrenaline Auto Injectors Supply Issues

October 2018

Adrenaline



There are ongoing problems with the availability of adrenaline auto injectors, in particular the 150mcg strength, with the situation changing on a weekly basis. In order to preserve and best utilise current stocks, prescribers are advised to ensure that repeat prescriptions are managed diligently by adhering to the following recommendations:

- Prescribers are advised to review prescription requests and, following assessment and where clinically appropriate, prescribe one pen per patient.
- Two pens can be issued to patients who have a specific need for after discussions with their doctor
- For institutions such as schools and for families with more than one child with a need for an adrenaline pen, then one device **per site** is sufficient
- If the school has obtained a non-personal device following the change in legislation this device maybe relied on as a backup.
- It is recommended that any child $\geq 30\text{kg}$ or over the age of 6years can be prescribed the 300mcg strength
- The manufacturers of Epipen 300mcg have obtained acceptance from the MHRA to extend the use of **specific batch numbers of Epipen 300mcg auto-injector** beyond the expiry date by four months. **Please note this extension of expiry dates only applies to the stated batch numbers and the Epipen 300mcg pen only.** (Please refer to the Department of Health and Social Care Supply Distribution Alert for a list of batch numbers [see link](#))
- Where possible prescribers should defer prescribing a replacement device for an adult Epipen which is within the extended use by date
- It is important that patients are aware that the device will expire on the last day of the month indicated and should not be disposed of until they have replaced them.
- The device will not cause harm if used beyond the expiry date but may be less effective. However it is still preferable to use a device even if it has expired rather than no device at all, where a replacement device is not available.

The adrenaline auto injectors Epipen, Jext and Emerade differ in administration technique. Therefore these devices are NOT interchangeable without specific training on the device being given to the patient.

There are ongoing problems with the availability of adrenaline auto injectors with the situation changing on a weekly basis. Further updates will be issued as the situation changes. These updates may be accessed at <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/shortage-of-epipen/>

For further information, please contact the Medicines Management Team on
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