

The purchase, storage and use of adrenaline auto-injector devices in schools

- **Adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) are devices[^] to administer adrenaline to a child experiencing a severe allergic reaction**
- **Following a change in the law[†] in October 2017, schools in the UK can now purchase AAI devices without a prescription, for emergency use on children at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis**
- **This document gives headteachers, school managers and staff an overview of the key issues that schools should be aware of.**



What is anaphylaxis?

Anaphylaxis is a severe and often sudden allergic reaction, which can be triggered by things like insect stings, latex, and everyday foods such as peanuts or eggs. Reactions usually begin within minutes of exposure and can progress rapidly (but can occur up to 2-3 hours later). **Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an immediate emergency response.**

What's the risk of it happening at school?

In the UK, up to 8% of children** have a food allergy and a fifth of all fatal reactions*** among children occur while at school. It is estimated that around two-thirds of schools have at least one child at risk of suffering a severe allergic reaction.****

What are the key benefits of the new law?

The new law means a school nurse or first aider can have swift access to the school's emergency stock of spare AAI devices, to give life-saving help to a child with a severe allergy.

Are schools obliged to store spare AAI devices?

No - buying and storing AAIs is an option for each school to consider. Doing so could bring greater peace of mind to parents of children with severe allergies.



Example of an auto-injector [^]

What rules^o or statutory guidance^{*} are there on the use of AAI devices?

The Department of Health has published detailed guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools, and this guidance is available online (see online information reference below). The guidance covers the purchase and storage of auto injectors, who can use them, appropriate training and support for staff, when AAIs can and cannot be used on a casualty, and what other action must also be taken.

- △ EpiPen, Jext and Emerade are well-known brands of AAI
- ** UK Food Standards Agency
- *** The Pharmaceutical Journal
- **** European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI)

Search these sources online for more information:

- † The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017
- o Department of Health: Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools
- * Department of Health - Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions trained and supported

ANAPHYLAXIS FIRST AID FOR SEVERE ALLERGIC REACTION

1/2
DAY

PRICE

£85
(+VAT)

£105
(+VAT) inside M25

A course for anyone who needs training in how and when to use an auto-injector in the treatment of anaphylaxis.

Course content:

- Communication and casualty care
- Allergic reaction
- Auto-injector
- Primary survey
- Resuscitation (all ages)
- Treatment of an unresponsive casualty.

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