

Save Act –Epinephrine

Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction, resulting from exposure to an allergen that is rapid in onset and can cause death.

Treatment for Anaphylaxis – Epinephrine (also known as “adrenaline”) is the drug of choice used to treat and reverse the symptoms of anaphylaxis. Epinephrine is administered intramuscularly by an auto-injector. Epinephrine auto-injectors should be stored in a safe, unlocked and accessible location. The storage area should be away from direct sunlight and room temperature. Expiration dates of the auto-injectors should be checked periodically; the drug should be discarded and replaced if it is past the prescription expiration date. The solution in the auto-injector should be clear; if it is discolored or contains solid particles, replace the unit.

Recommendations (Policy) for Horry County Schools

1. The school nurse and First Responders in every school will be assigned and trained to administer epinephrine in the case of anaphylaxis.
2. Dr. Charles Tarbert of Conway Medical Center will approve the Standing Orders for non-student specific epinephrine. (Reviewed annually)
3. Epinephrine auto-injectors will be stored in each health room. They should not be locked but rather easily accessible to trained staff.
4. Epinephrine auto-injectors will be checked periodically by the school nurse for clarity of solution and expiration date.
5. Replacement of auto-injectors due to usage, expired prescription or solution issues will be made through Health Services. Contact: Cristi Norris at 843-488-6877.
6. First responders will be trained in anaphylaxis and epinephrine administration via Safe Schools courses available on the employee portal. Demonstration of procedure and knowledge base check off will be done by the school nurse at each school.
7. Procedures are in place to document, track and report anaphylactic events requiring the use of epinephrine.
8. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians of students known to have a need for epinephrine to provide the school with specific medical orders and a supply of their own epinephrine at the start of the school year or upon transfer to the school. The school nurse will provide an individualized healthcare plan for the specific identified student.
9. If a student is believed to be having an anaphylactic reaction, the school nurse or other trained employees (first responders) will administer the epinephrine.
10. Stock epinephrine is intended for use on school premises and should not be carried offsite.
11. Initial distribution of auto-injectors will be done and documented by Health Services.

RESPONSE PROTOCOL

1. Based on symptoms, determine that an anaphylactic reaction is occurring. Act quickly.
ANAPHYLAXIS is a life-threatening reaction. It is safer to give epinephrine than to delay treatment.
2. If you are alone and are able to provide epinephrine, call out or yell for help as you immediately go to get the epinephrine. Do not seek help until after administering the epinephrine.
3. If you are alone and have not been trained in epinephrine administration, call or yell for help getting trained personnel on site quickly.
4. Call the school nurse/Front Office school personnel and advise of the situation.
5. Select appropriate epinephrine auto-injector to administer, based on weight. EpiPen Junior if less than 66 pounds, EpiPen if over 66 pounds.
6. Inject epinephrine via auto-injector: Pull off safety release cap. Swing and jab firmly into upper, outer thigh (through clothing if necessary). **Hold in place for 10 seconds to deliver medication and then remove.** Massage the area for 10 more seconds. Note the time.
7. Call or have a bystander call 911 immediately or activate EMS. Advise 911 operator that anaphylaxis is suspected and epinephrine was given. Stay with the individual providing support until EMS arrives.
8. Keep the individual either lying down or seated. If they lose consciousness, check if they are breathing and have a pulse. If not, begin CPR, continue CPR until the individual regains a pulse and is breathing or until EMS arrives and takes over.
9. Provide EMS with Epinephrine auto-injector labeled with name, date and time administered to transport to the ER with the student.
10. Be sure parents/guardians have been notified of epinephrine administration and EMS transport.
11. Complete required documentation of the event.
12. Place order to replace epinephrine auto-injector.