

Epinephrine Auto-Injector Use

by Children's Camps

Fact Sheet - March 2003

In 1999, Governor Pataki signed the Epinephrine Auto-injector Device Law (Chapter 578 of the Laws of 1999), which permits specially trained staff in children's day and overnight camps to use an epinephrine auto-injector device in life-threatening emergencies. For people experiencing life-threatening allergic reactions (also known as anaphylaxis), the availability of an auto-injector is a matter of life and death.

More than 2 million Americans suffer from anaphylaxis. The main causes are insect stings or ingesting food or medication to which an individual is allergic. The allergic individual's best chance of survival is an immediate injection of the medication epinephrine to counteract the body's allergic response.

What is an auto-injector?

An auto-injector is an easy-to-use pencil-like needle that injects a premeasured dose of epinephrine into someone having an anaphylactic reaction. The new law applies to auto-injectors not syringes.

Who can administer an auto-injector?

- a camper, if he/she has proof of his/her own prescription;
- a licensed health care practitioner;
- children's camp employees designated by the camp director and the camp's emergency health care provider and who have passed a training course approved by the New York State Department of Health on the use of the auto-injector.

What steps must a children's camp take to become involved in the program?

- identify a physician or hospital to serve as the camp's emergency health care provider;
- develop, sign and implement an agreement between the camp and the emergency health care provider; this must include written practice protocols and policies for use of the auto-injector;
- include the agreement as part of the written plan that the camp submits to the local health department.
- have appropriate staff trained as outlined in the agreement, and maintain a record of those trained with training dates, training refresher dates and curriculum followed; verification must be submitted to the local health department;
- give written notice to the local Emergency Medical Service System dispatch center that an auto-injector will be available on site (verbal and written notice to the local ambulance service is also suggested);

- file a notice of intent with the local Regional Medical Services Council (REMSCO) and attach a copy of the agreement with the health care provider;*
- notify and file a new agreement with REMSCO when there is a change in the agreement and /or the emergency health care provider.

Note: After the initial submission of the notice of intent and agreement to REMSCO, it is not necessary to re-file each season unless there is a change in the agreement or health care provider.

What must the practice protocols and policies include?

The practice protocols and policies must include:

- the curriculum used to train authorized individuals; the curriculum must be approved by the Commissioner of Health;
- designation of who will conduct the training of the authorized individuals; this will be determined by the emergency health care provider;
- designation of staff to be trained to use, acquire and dispose of the auto-injector;
- a schedule for periodic refreshment of the course material;
- a protocol for use of the auto-injector for both pediatric and adult cases;
- a plan of action when an auto-injector is used, including notification of EMS, mandatory reporting to the local Department of Health and the camp emergency health care provider, and disposal of the auto-injector in accordance with OSHA regulation 29 CFR 1910.1030;
- a procedure for obtaining, storing and accounting for the drug (it is the responsibility of the emergency health care provider to purchase and distribute the auto-injectors to the individual camps).

If there is a life-threatening emergency and an auto-injector is administered, what else must be done?

- call the local Emergency Medical Service System as quickly as possible to obtain further medical attention and to transport the individual to the hospital;
- report the incident to the camp health director and enter it in the camp medical log;
- report the incident to the emergency health care provider listed in the collaborating agreement;
- report the incident to the local health department within 24 hours;
- immediately after use the auto-injector will be placed back in the packaging tube and the cap replaced;
- whenever possible the auto-injector will accompany the individual to the hospital.

What is included in an approved training course?

- an overview of the common causes of allergic emergencies;
- how to identify the signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction;

- how to quickly access the Emergency Medical Service System;
- instructions for use of an auto-injector;
- safe storage, handling and disposal practices for the auto-injector ;
- the steps for providing ongoing care of the patient until emergency medical personnel arrive;
- the state regulations that allow an individual to possess and use an auto-injector in a life-threatening situation;
- a system for identifying those who carry their own auto-injector.

What will the local health department look for during the annual on-site inspection?

- implementation of the camp’s written plan, including the proper storage, accountability, documentation, use and disposal of the epinephrine auto-injector per the agreement with the camp’s emergency health care provider;
- a system for identifying those with severe allergies who carry their own auto-injector;
- documentation in the camp medical log and other incident reports to document when an auto-injector was used;
- a copy of the camp agreement with the emergency health care provider;
- a list of camp employees who have been trained to administer the auto-injector and proof of completion of an approved training course by those employees.
- the auto injectors on camp property all possess a current manufacturer’s expiration date.

For additional information on this new law and for a list of training courses approved by the New York State Department of Health, contact:

Bureau of Community Environmental Health and Food Protection	Bureau of Emergency Medical Service
Children’s Camp Program	Operations Unit
(518) 402-7630	(518) 402-0996

Currently approved manufacturers of epinephrine auto-injector:

EpiPen® and EpiPen, Jr. ®
 Meridian Medical Technologies
 10240 Old Columbia Road
 Columbia, Maryland 21046
 Website: www.meridianmeds.com

Regional EMS Councils

Adirondack-Appalachian EMS Council

Main Street, P.O. Box 212
Speculator, New York 12164
(518) 548-5911
(518) 548-7605 Fax

www.aarems.org

Counties: Delaware, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie

Big Lakes Regional EMS Council

534 Main Street, Suite 19
Medina, New York 14103
(585) 798-1620

<http://biglakesems.com/index.htm>

Counties: Genesee, Niagara, Orleans

Central New York Regional EMS Council

Jefferson Tower - Suite LL1
50 Presidential Plaza
Syracuse, New York 13202
(315) 701-5707
(315) 701-5709 Fax

www.cnyems.org

Counties: Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego, Tompkins

Finger Lakes Regional EMS Council

FLCC Geneva Extension Center
63 Pulteney Street
Geneva, New York 14456
(315) 789-0108
(315) 789-5638 Fax

www.flremsc.org

Counties: Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates

Hudson-Mohawk Regional EMS Council

Colonie Community Center(REMO)
1653 Central Avenue
Albany, New York 12205
(518) 464-5097
(518) 464-5099 Fax

www.remo-ems.com

Counties: Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady

Hudson Valley Regional EMS Council

45 Academy Avenue
Cornwall-On-Hudson, New York 12520
(845) 534-2430
(845) 534-3070 Fax
www.hvremsc.org

Counties: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster

Mid-State Regional EMS Council

Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare EMS Program
2521 Sunset Ave.
Utica, New York 13502
(315) 738-8351
(315) 738-8981 Fax

www.midstateems.org

Counties: Herkimer, Madison, Oneida

Monroe-Livingston Regional EMS Council

University of Rochester Medical Center
601 Elmwood Avenue
Box 655
Rochester, New York 14642
(585) 463-2900
(585) 463-2966 Fax

www.mlremsc.org

Counties: Livingston, Monroe

Mountain Lakes Regional EMS Council

333 Aviation Rd.
Queensbury, New York 12804
(518) 793-8200
(518) 793-6647 Fax
www.nenyems.org

Counties: Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren, Washington

Nassau Regional EMS Council

2201 Hempstead Turnpike
Bldg A - 4th Floor, Box 78
East Meadow, New York 11554
(516) 542-0025
(516) 542-0049 Fax

www.nassauems.org

Counties: Nassau

North Country Regional EMS Council

SUNY Canton College of Technology
34 Cornell Dr.
Canton, New York 13617
(315) 379-3977
(866) 475-3977
(315) 379-3979 Fax

www.canton.edu/ncems

Counties: Jefferson, Lewis, St. Lawrence

Regional EMS Council of New York City

475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1929
New York, New York 10115

(212) 870-2301

(212) 870-2302 Fax

www.nycremsco.org

Counties: Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, Richmond

Southern Tier Regional EMS Council, dba Emstar

1058 West Church Street
Elmira, New York 14905
(607) 732-2354

(607) 732-2661 Fax

www.stremscouncil.org

Counties: Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben

Southwestern Regional EMS Council

PO Box 544
Olean, New York 14760
(716) 373-2612

Counties: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauque

Suffolk Regional EMS Council

Suffolk Co. Dept. of Health Services
Division of EMS
Dennison Bldg., First Floor
100 Veterans Memorial Highway
Hauppauge, New York 11788-5401
(631) 853-5800
(631) 853-8307 Fax

www.suffolkremsc.com

Counties: Suffolk

Susquehanna Regional EMS Council

Public Safety Facility
153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive
Binghamton, New York 13905-1559
(607) 778-2180

www.sremsc.com

Counties: Broome, Chenango, Tioga

Westchester Regional EMS Council

4 Dana Rd.
Valhalla, New York 10595
(914) 231-1616
(914) 813-4161 Fax

www.wremsc.org

Counties: Westchester

Wyoming-Erie Regional EMS Council

P.O. Box 630
Clarence, New York 14031
(716) 898-3600

(716) 668-2754 Fax

Counties: Erie, Wyoming