

Subject: BLS Medication – All Providers
Epinephrine Autoinjector (EpiPen®) Adult and Pediatric

Associated Policies:

I. CLASS

Epinephrine is a naturally occurring catecholamine with alpha- and beta-adrenergic effects. It relaxes smooth bronchial muscles and opposes histamine effects.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Stock Epinephrine Autoinjector (Stock EpiPen):** An agency-supplied autoinjector that is not prescribed to a specific patient.
- B. **Patient-Prescribed Epinephrine Autoinjector (EpiPen):** An autoinjector prescribed and dispensed to a specific patient.

III. AUTHORIZATION AND TRAINING

- A. Public Safety-First Aid personnel and First Responders may assist a patient with the patient's prescribed autoinjector within their scope and training.
- B. Stock auto-injector administration by Public Safety-First Aid personnel or First Responders require additional North Coast EMS-approved training, demonstrated competency, and agency authorization and be on duty for their agency.
- C. EMTs may assist with a patient's prescribed autoinjector or administer a stock autoinjector, consistent with agency authorization.

IV. INDICATIONS

- A. Life-threatening allergic reaction or anaphylaxis.
- B. Severe, life-threatening asthma is not relieved by the patient's usual medication.

V. CONTRAINDICATIONS AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

- A. No absolute contraindication exists in a life-threatening situation. Use caution in patients over 40 years of age or with known ischemic heart disease.
- B. Adverse effects may include tachycardia, palpitations, and tremors.

VI. DOSAGE

- A. Adult over 30 kg: Epinephrine 0.3 mg IM to the outer lateral thigh using an adult autoinjector.
- B. Pediatric 15–30 kg: Epinephrine 0.15 mg IM to the outer lateral thigh using a pediatric autoinjector.
- C. Repeat Dose: If the patient is not improving, assist with or administer one repeat age- and weight-appropriate dose 5–15 minutes after the initial dose, within provider scope, training, agency authorization, and applicable medical direction. Do not delay transport or ALS response.

VII. PROCEDURE

- A. Use the outer lateral thigh only. Do not inject into the buttocks. Follow the selected device manufacturer's instructions and avoid self-injection.
- B. Administer the full device contents, record the time, and dispose of the device in a sharps container.
- C. Reassess every two minutes; monitor the airway and assist ventilation as needed; and notify the transporting ambulance.