Epinephrine Auto-Injector (EpiPen® or Auvi-Q™) Use and Storage

Epinephrine is the medication that, when given as an injection, can help relieve the symptoms of anaphylaxis and can save a child’s life. If a child in your care has known allergies to bee stings or certain foods, and has a history of anaphylaxis, the child’s health care provider will probably prescribe epinephrine to be kept on hand.

Epinephrine auto-injectors come in two main forms:

- **EpiPen®** (including EpiPen® Jr) is a disposable, prefilled automatic injection device that contains a single dose of epinephrine.

- **Auvi-Q™** is a compact epinephrine auto-injector that talks you through the injection process step by step.

**To correctly administer an EpiPen®**

- Remove the auto-injector from the clear carrier tube: Flip open the yellow cap of the EpiPen® or the green cap of the EpiPen Jr® Auto-Injector carrier tube. Tip and slide the auto-injector out of the carrier tube.

- Grasp the auto-injector in your fist with the orange tip pointing downward.  
  *Note: The needle comes out of the orange tip. NEVER put your thumb, fingers, or hand over the orange tip.*

- With your other hand, remove the blue safety release by pulling straight up without bending or twisting it.

- Hold the auto-injector with the orange tip near the outer thigh. Swing and firmly push the orange tip against the outer thigh until it “clicks”. Keep the auto-injector firmly pushed against the thigh for approximately 10 seconds to deliver the drug. The injection is now complete.

- Remove the auto-injector from the thigh. The orange tip will extend to cover the needle. Massage the injection area for 10 seconds. Get emergency medical help right away. The child may need further medical attention. Symptoms can reoccur, even hours later, so even if the child seems better, (s)he still needs emergency care.

- Send the used auto-injector with the child to the hospital, and be sure to include the child’s health history card.

- The used auto-injector with extended needle cover will not fit in the carrier tube.

- Most of the liquid medicine stays in the auto-injector and cannot be reused. The child has received the correct dose of the medicine if the orange needle tip is extended and the window is blocked.

- Do not attempt to take apart the EpiPen® or EpiPen® Jr Auto-Injector.
To correctly administer an Auvi-Q™

- Remove Auvi-Q™ from the outer case.
  *Once you have removed Auvi-Q™ from the outer case, it will begin playing audible instructions to guide you through administering the medication.*
- Pull off the red safety guard.
- Place the black end of Auvi-Q™ against the middle of the outer thigh (through clothing, if needed), then press firmly, and hold in place for 5 seconds.
  *Only inject into the middle of the outer thigh. Do not inject into any other part of the body.*
- After using Auvi-Q™, get emergency medical help right away

It is standard protocol to send the used auto-injector with the child on the ambulance.

**Remember, an epinephrine auto-injector is a prescription medication that is for a specific child.** If a child in your care is having symptoms of anaphylaxis and does not have an auto-injector, get emergency help by calling 911. You **MAY NOT** use one child’s auto-injector for another child under any circumstances.