

To:
All General Practitioners
All Community Pharmacists

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Dear Colleagues,

ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTOR: SUPPLY ISSUES

HSCB is aware that there are significant supply issues with adrenaline auto-injectors and that the situation is changing on an almost daily basis. There are three licensed adrenaline auto-injectors marketed in the UK:

- EpiPen[®] <http://www.epipen.co.uk/>
- Emerade[®] <https://www.emerade-bausch.co.uk/>
- Jext[®] <https://hcp.jext.co.uk/>

There are significant differences in the presentation of these products and switching should only be done after careful consideration with the patient/carer. Indeed, supply issues have emerged across the ranges as set out overleaf.

Further detailed information is available on the following website:

Anaphylaxis UK: <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news/>

To support patient access to product during this supply constraint, healthcare professionals are encouraged to manage prescription renewals diligently.

It is important to note that when validating the expiry date of an adrenaline auto-injector, the product expires on the last day of the month indicated.

Given the supply issues, patients/carers should be advised that expired stock should not be discarded until replacement stock has been secured.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your Pharmacy Adviser

Further details on the current position are set out overleaf, but please note the website links above will provide more up to date information.

0.3mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- Currently supplies are available of EpiPen[®] 0.3mg via a stock management process from Alliance Healthcare. Pharmacies are allocated stock on a prescription-only basis and can place orders for **up to a maximum of two auto-Injectors per prescription**, ordered via Alliance Emergency Ordering Service either by fax or email (email is preferable as a receipt of sending will be received by the pharmacy).
- A limited volume of short-dated EpiPen[®] 0.3mg Auto-Injectors that will expire in February 2019. This supply is not subject to the current prescription validation process, as outlined above, and will be available for pharmacists to order and hold in stock.
- AAH/Sangers in NI do not have any Emerade[®] in stock at present; Phoenix have stock of the 0.3mg and 0.5mg strength.
- Alliance Healthcare is managing stock for Jext[®] but supplies in Belfast depot are depleted at the moment.

0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-injectors:

- Mylan recently advised that EpiPen[®] Jr 0.15mg Adrenaline Auto-Injectors is now out of stock until the next shipment arrives, estimated to be by the end of September.
- Due to the supply situation with EpiPen[®] Jr 0.15mg, supplies of both Jext[®] and Emerade[®] 0.15mg adrenaline auto-injectors have been rapidly depleted and are currently unavailable. However, additional supplies of Jext[®] are expected early next week and Emerade[®] by the end of September. Supplies will be limited and the overall situation is likely to be constrained until the Mylan situation has resolved.

Yours sincerely,



Joe Brogan
Assistant Director of Integrated Care
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