

Epinephrine Auto Injector Pen Administration For Treatment Of Anaphylaxis At School

Murrieta Valley Unified School District endorses the use of epinephrine auto injector pens for students who may experience anaphylaxis at school. In the event of an anaphylactic reaction epinephrine auto injector pens may be administered by:

- Licensed health care professionals.
- Trained unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) under the direct or indirect supervision of the credentialed school nurse.

The following guidelines should be in place prior to administering epinephrine by auto injector pen to students.

- If a student has a known history of anaphylaxis:
 - Student's parent/guardian will provide a written request for administration of an epinephrine auto-injector pen by school personnel.
 - The student will have a current written order from a physician for an epinephrine auto-injector pen.
 - Student's parent/guardian will provide a written request for administration of an epinephrine auto-injector pen by school personnel.
 - The prescription medication will be provided to the district by the parent/guardian: and potency of medication will be guaranteed by expiration date verification.
 - The student may carry and self-administer the prescribed medication if s/he demonstrates competency in the procedure. This must have the prior approval of the physician, parent/guardian and school nurse and be documented in the Individualized Health Plan.
- If a student does not have a history of known anaphylaxis and has no epinephrine auto injector, but experiences rapid onset of symptoms including compromised breathing, an epi-pen will be administered and 911 will be called immediately, along with the school nurse.
- Unlicensed assistive personnel will be trained by the school nurse on a regular basis.
- An emergency care plan will be in place with procedures to follow, including phoning 911.
- The student who has a history of anaphylaxis will be encouraged to carry medical identification in the form of a card or Medical Alert bracelet/necklace identifying the specific allergy.

RATIONALE

Anaphylaxis is a rapid severe allergic response triggered by insect stings, food, medications, latex materials, exercise, or in rare cases by unknown causes. This is a life-threatening allergic condition, requiring immediate treatment. Administration of epinephrine has proven to be life saving and is not contraindicated in any breathing emergency (regardless of medical history.) By providing rapid administration of epinephrine, it can buy precious minutes while waiting for emergency personnel to arrive. Training unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP) to administer epinephrine auto-injector pens to students during a breathing emergency can help to insure the student's health and safety at school.