

Medicines Optimisation Position Statement

Position Statement	Quantity of adrenaline autoinjectors on prescription
Position Statement number	001
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The MHRA¹ recommends that those prescribed Adrenaline Autoinjectors (AAIs) should always carry TWO devices, as some people can require more than one dose of adrenaline and the AAI device can be used wrongly, occasionally misfire or a second injection is needed before emergency help arrives.

Frimley ICB recommend clinicians routinely prescribe two AAIs (or one more bringing the total to two if a patient already has one in date device) for each patient who is at risk of anaphylaxis for them to always carry on their person. It is not current practice to prescribe more than two AAIs for patients to retain in multiple locations.

This recommendation is in line with that published by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

AAIs and School Children

Children at risk of anaphylaxis should have their prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors at school for use in an emergency.

Depending on their level of understanding and competence, children and particularly teenagers should always carry their adrenaline pens with them, or the pens should be quickly and easily accessible at all times. If the AAIs are not carried by the pupil, then they should be kept in a central place in a box marked clearly with the pupil's name but NOT locked in a cupboard or an office where access is restricted.

Prescribers may need to consider prescribing more than two but no more than four pens per child when the school determines that it is inappropriate for a specific individual child to carry the injectors themselves².

Parents /carers /guardians may be given a copy of the MHRA advice sheet³.

¹ [Adrenaline auto-injectors \(AAIs\): new guidance and resources for safe use - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adrenaline-auto-injectors-new-guidance-and-resources-for-safe-use)

² [Class-1-2023-004-MHRA \(3\).pdf](#)

³ [The correct use of your Adrenaline Auto Injector \(AAI\) MHRA.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Prescribers are reminded of the importance of ensuring patients understand how to use their devices and of the need to prescribe the appropriate dose/device for the individual. Support can be obtained from the websites below and patients and carers can obtain a demonstration pen from the manufacturers so that they can practice how to use the pens in case of an emergency.

Demonstration Videos for each AAI device

[Emerade](#)

[EpiPen](#)

[Jext](#)

From October 2017 schools have been allowed by law to buy adrenaline auto-injector devices without a prescription⁴, for emergency use in children who are at risk of anaphylaxis, but their own device is not available or not working (e.g., because it is broken, or out-of-date) and (clarified March 2023), for a child presenting for the first time with anaphylaxis due to an unrecognised allergy.

Current guidance from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency is that anyone prescribed an AAI should always carry two of the devices. Any purchased AAI held by a school should be considered a spare/back up device not a replacement for a pupil's own AAI. MHRA has clarified that "spare" adrenaline auto-injectors held by schools⁵ are not supplied against a named prescription for an individual patient, which distinguishes them from adrenaline auto-injectors prescribed to individual pupils and that should be accessible to them at all times.

Schools are reminded not to ask the parent/patient to request additional prescriptions via the patients GP outside of that recommended in this statement, but may wish to consider adopting the policy of purchasing devices without prescription for emergency use in children who are at risk of anaphylaxis but their own device is not available or not working, in line with the Department of Health guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools.

⁴ [Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/618247/guidance-on-the-use-of-adrenaline-auto-injectors-in-schools.pdf)

⁵ [MHRA Clarification of AAI guidance for schools](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mhra-clarification-of-aaai-guidance-for-schools)