	Policy #6.6.1
SUBJECT: Use of EpiPens	Written: 3/09 Reviewed: 03/19
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Use of EpiPens

Policy:

Anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction marked by swelling of the throat or tongue, hives, and trouble breathing. Time is critical and the technologist may need to perform the injection without the physician.

Indication:

EpiPen® and EpiPen® Jr (0.3 and 0.15 mg epinephrine) Auto-Injectors are indicated for emergency treatment of allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) for people with a history of an anaphylactic reaction.

The most distinctive symptoms of anaphylaxis include:

- Hives
- Swelling of the throat, lips, tongue, or around the eyes
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing

Other common symptoms of anaphylaxis may include:

- A metallic taste or itching in the mouth
- Generalized flushing, itching, or redness of the skin
- Abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Increased heart rate
- Rapidly decreasing blood pressure (and accompanying paleness)
- A sudden feeling of weakness
- Anxiety or an overwhelming sense of doom
- Collapse
- Loss of consciousness

The EpiPen® and EpiPen® Jr Auto-Injectors are designed as emergency supportive therapy only and are not a replacement or substitute for immediate medical or hospital care. In case of accidental injection, please seek immediate medical treatment.


Directions for use:

The epipen is for patients over 88 pounds. If the patient is under 88 pounds you should choose the epipen jr.



Remove the device from the plastic protective container.

Remove the *grey cap* from the fatter end of the device.

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Hold the EpiPen in your fist with clenched fingers wrapped around it. Press the ***black tip*** gently against the skin of the mid thigh, then start to push harder until a loud "click" is heard. Hold in place for 10 seconds while the adrenaline is injected under pressure.



Remove the pen from the thigh; be careful with the needle that will now be projecting from the EpiPen when you dispose of the device. ***Massage*** in the adrenalin. There may be some slight bleeding at the injection site. Apply firm pressure with a cloth, tissue, clean handkerchief or bandage. ***Record*** the time that the EpiPen was given.

