

Standing Order

Service Unit: Public Health Services (PHS) **Number:** SO-9200
Program Name: School Health

Title: Standing Order for the Administration of School Supplied
(Undesignated) Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Issued to: _____
Name of School District (Public) or Name of School (Nonpublic)

Street Address, City, State, Zip Code

**Standing Order
Description:**

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) authorized prescriptions may be provided to school districts or nonpublic schools to respond to life-threatening allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) in individuals pursuant to Public Act 97-0361, Illinois Emergency Epinephrine Act. Any Registered Nurse working within the DuPage County school system (school nurse) may administer epinephrine via an undesignated epinephrine auto-injector to a student who in the school nurse's professional judgment is experiencing a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. The school nurse must be licensed to practice under the Nurse Practice Act, 225 ILCS 65/50-1 et seq.

Assessment:

The possibility of an allergic anaphylactic reaction will be considered when individuals present with any of the following symptoms, or any combination thereof: sudden onset of shortness of breath, wheezing, repetitive cough, difficulty swallowing, obstructive swelling of the tongue or throat, hoarse voice, confusion, pallor, cyanosis, syncope, skin signs or symptoms such as diffuse or patchy itching and/or wheals, or intestinal symptoms such as cramping abdominal pain and/or vomiting, or any combinations of possible allergic symptoms arising from other parts of the body, in the absence of what a health professional would consider to be a probable alternative cause.

**Implementation and
Physician Order:**

The school nurse will assess the student's symptoms and history. If, in the reasonable opinion of the school nurse, a potentially life-threatening allergic reaction is likely, the school nurse will obtain the undesignated epinephrine auto-injector.

The school nurse will ask or estimate the student's body weight and administer 0.15mg epinephrine via auto-injector for body weight less than 55 lbs (25kg) or 0.3mg epinephrine via auto-injector for body weight greater than 55 lbs (25kg). The epinephrine auto-injector will be injected intramuscularly in the lateral thigh; the time of injection will be noted and the anatomical site of the injection shall be marked with a permanent marker to alert emergency services personnel of its location.

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In every case, emergency services will be contacted as soon as possible using available 911 or other municipal service. The student's emergency contacts will be called. The school nurse will monitor the student for changes in his or her symptoms and will attempt to make the person as comfortable as possible. If the student's symptoms are not substantially relieved in 3-5 minutes, or if they recur, the school nurse may administer a second dose of epinephrine.

The school nurse will advise the emergency services personnel of the symptoms that required the use of epinephrine, the dose of epinephrine, the anatomical site of the injection, the time administered, and any change in the symptoms or condition of the student. The used epinephrine auto-injector will be given to the emergency services personnel. The school nurse or other school personnel will accompany the student in the ambulance if required by school policy and as permitted by the local Emergency Medical Services System protocol.

Quality Assurance:

The school nurse will **complete a written report** detailing the name of the student, all of his/her observations, physical assessments, interventions (together with the results of such interventions), the number and dosage of epinephrine administrations, the anatomical injection sites, and times for each. The completed written report shall be signed by the school nurse and **submitted to the physician signing this order and the student's primary care physician**, if known, within 48 hours.

When the stock epinephrine medication is used, in addition to completing and sending a report to the DuPage County Health Department, please fill out form 34-20 (available at the Illinois State Board of Education webpage at <https://www.isbe.net/Documents/34-20-undesignated-epinephrine-rptg.pdf>) and email it to epinephrine@isbe.net within three school days of its use.

Expiration and Disposal of Unused Auto-Injectors:

The school nurse shall check the expiration date located on the undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors monthly and obtain a new prescription for a replacement auto-injector prior to that expiration date. The school nurse shall dispose of an expired, unused epinephrine auto-injector in a manner consistent with current school medication policies or return to the issuing pharmacy for disposal. **An inventory log shall be kept by the school nurse** indicating the date of receipt of an undesignated epinephrine auto-injector and the date of administration or disposal of the auto-injector.

DATE EFFECTIVE: _____

RENEWAL DATE: _____

(One year from effective date):

PHYSICIAN SIGNATURE: _____

PHYSICIAN NAME (*Printed*): Rashmi Chugh, MD, MPH

PHYSICIAN CONTACT NUMBER: (630) 221-7300

PHYSICIAN LICENSE NUMBER: 036093379