

Auto Injector (EpiPen®) Use and Storage



Epinephrine is the medication that, when given as an injection, can help relieve the symptoms of anaphylaxis and can save a child's life. If a child in your care has known allergies to bee stings or certain foods, and has a history of anaphylaxis, the child's health care provider will probably prescribe epinephrine to be kept on hand.

To correctly administer an auto injector (EpiPen®):

- Take it out of the plastic tube.
- Grasp it with your dominant hand, with your thumb closest to the end with the safety release cap, *never over the cap*.
- Use your other hand to remove the safety release cap.
- *Don't touch the black tip* at the other end of the auto injector (EpiPen®) once the safety release cap is removed.
- Holding the black tip toward the outer part of the thigh, swing and jab firmly into the outer thigh at a 90-degree angle. The auto injector (EpiPen®) is spring loaded and designed to be used through clothing.
- Do NOT inject any other part of the body unless instructed to do so by the physician.
- Keep the auto injector (EpiPen®) against the thigh for approximately 10 seconds.
- Remove the auto injector (EpiPen®) and rub the injection site for another 10 seconds.
- Check the small clear window on the side of the auto injector (EpiPen®). If you see the red plunger in the window, it means the epinephrine has been injected. Also look to see if the needle is coming out of the black tip.
- Take the used auto injector (EpiPen®) and, without bending the needle, carefully put it back into its plastic carrying tube, needle end first. Then screw the cap on completely. This will automatically lock the auto injector (EpiPen®) into the tube for safety.
- Send the auto injector (EpiPen®) with the child to the hospital and be sure to include the child's health history card.
- Symptoms can reoccur, even hours later; so even if the child seems better, (s)he still needs emergency care.

Remember, an auto injector (EpiPen®) is a prescription medication that is for a specific child. If a child in your care is having symptoms of anaphylaxis and does *not* have an auto injector (EpiPen®), get emergency help by calling 911. You **MAY NOT** use one child's auto injector (EpiPen®) for another child under any circumstances



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