



Jefferson County Public Schools Health Services

Stock Epinephrine Procedures

History and Prevalence

House bill 172 encourages all Kentucky schools to “keep epinephrine auto injectors in the school so that epinephrine may be administered to any student believed to be having a life-threatening allergic or anaphylactic reaction. KRS 158.836 also encourages schools to store a minimum of two epinephrine auto injectors in two different locations within the school building in the event that a student has a severe life threatening allergic or anaphylactic reaction.

Nearly 6 million children in the United States have a documented food allergy. That is about 1 for every 13 students, or 2 per classroom. 16-18% of these students have experienced an allergic reaction in school. Additionally, 25% of life threatening allergic reactions occur during school time, with 25% of these cases being children with no previous history of allergic reactions.

Background

Anaphylaxis is a severe life threatening allergic reaction that can be fatal within minutes. It is the result of an exposure to some sort of allergen. The most common allergens include: foods, insect stings/bites, latex, and medications. Food allergies are on the rise and are present in every school. Some of the most common foods that children are allergic to include: peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, wheat, soy, and shellfish. An anaphylactic reaction can occur at any time to anyone, despite having previous exposure to the allergen.

To reduce the effects of an anaphylactic reaction and to prevent a life threatening event from occurring, a medication known as epinephrine should be administered as soon as signs of a reaction are present. Epinephrine reverses the effects of an allergic reaction, can be lifesaving, and has no harm on the person that it is administered to. It is packaged in an auto-injector, which is safe and easy to use and can be administered through clothing in a person’s outer thigh.

Implementation

Health Services will obtain epinephrine auto injectors through the “EpiPens 4 Schools” program sponsored by the pharmaceutical company Mylan. This program will provide each school with 2 sets of auto injectors.

Health Services Nurse Practitioners will go to each individual school and provide school staff that have attended the Health Services Medication Administration Training for the current school year, with training materials and resources. The information will include the epinephrine protocols and procedures and a review on how to administer the medication. Once staff members have received the education, the auto injectors will be placed in the schools. Placement will be somewhat building specific, but typically they will be placed in the school office/health office and the cafeteria. The injectors will be placed in secure, accessible, unlocked location as recommended by KRS 158.836.



Administration of the stock epinephrine auto injectors can be done by: school nurses (when available) and school staff members who are currently trained in the Health Services Medication Administration Training. It can be given to any individual that is in the school building that meets the criteria for an anaphylactic reaction. Epinephrine would be administered in the event of an anaphylactic episode when trained school staff and the auto injectors are available on site. Stock epinephrine will not be available on field trips or some after school activities.

For individuals that have no prior history of an anaphylactic reaction, the epinephrine will be administered as directed on the JCPS Stock Epinephrine Protocol, at the onset of one severe or two mild symptoms. For students that have a known history of an anaphylactic reaction, it is required for them to have a current Asthma/ Allergy Primary Care Provider (PCP) Authorization form on file. The parent/guardian should also provide the school with the student's own individual auto injector. In the event that a student with a known reaction has an anaphylactic event, the auto injector would be administered per the instructions listed on the PCP form. If no PCP/auto injector is on file at the school for the student, the stock epinephrine would be administered at the onset of symptoms.

Anytime epinephrine is administered to an individual, 911 is to be activated. An individual that has received epinephrine due to a suspected anaphylactic reaction needs to be transported to the nearest hospital for evaluation and monitoring due to the fact that a delayed or secondary reaction can occur up to several hours after the initial reaction. A student that has received epinephrine cannot remain at school for that day.

Monitoring and Maintenance

In the event that an auto injector is administered, the school personnel will need to complete a Stock Epinephrine Response form. This form will then be submitted to Health Services. This will serve as means to track the amount of epinephrine that is being needed and to alert the Health Services Nurse Practitioner to order additional auto injectors. Health services will also use this documentation as a way to follow up on students to ensure all health needs are being met while they attend school.