



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
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ADVISORY 16-01-01

To: All MA Licensed Ambulance Services, All MA Accredited EMS Training Institutions
From: Jon Burstein, MD, State EMS Medical Director
Re: Alternative to Auto-Injectors for Administration of Epinephrine 1:1000
Date: January 13, 2016

The purpose of this Advisory is to allow Advanced Life Support (ALS)-licensed ambulance services, with approval of their affiliate hospital medical director, to train and equip their Advanced EMTs and Paramedics working on ALS ambulances to administer Epinephrine (1:1,000 concentration) via intramuscular (IM) injection from a vial of the medication in a special kit as described below, instead of using auto-injectors. Currently, in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols, version 2015.1, in Protocols 2.2A, 2.2P, 2.6A and 2.6P, EMTs at all levels must administer Epinephrine (1:1,000 concentration) by auto-injector only, except by medical control order.

Services seeking to implement this alternative to Epinephrine auto-injectors for their ALS personnel must use a kit that meets the following criteria:

- Epinephrine administration supplies must be maintained in a separate container from all other medications;
- Epinephrine 1:1,000 1mg/1mL concentration must be in a glass vial;
- Kit case *and* medication vial must both be labeled with “NOT FOR IV USE”;
- Kit contains 2 sterile 1cc graduated syringes and 21- to 25-gauge needles (3/8-1 inch long) that are permanently attached (i.e. needle cannot be removed from syringe). Needle must be “safety” engineered, easily sheathed or protected following use, and
- Documentation and direction card must be included in kit, noting the Epinephrine is NOT for IV use, and noting dosing for adult/pediatric patients.

Services using this kit may replace 2 Epinephrine auto-injectors for each kit on the vehicle to meet minimum medication par levels, either adult or pediatric. To replace all auto-injectors required on the vehicle would require 2 complete kits.

All uses of this Epinephrine IM kit must be reviewed by through the quality assurance/quality improvement program under the service’s affiliation agreement, and records of such review must be made available for the Department’s inspection. If you have any questions, please contact Renee Atherton, Paramedic, Compliance Coordinator, at renee.atherton@state.ma.us.