

DPH Standards for Training Health Care Supervisor and Other Staff on Use of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Every health care supervisor (HCS) shall complete a training and a test of competency on administration of epinephrine auto-injectors under the direction of the health care consultant.¹ However, due to the emergent nature of anaphylactic reactions, other staff may also be trained in the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector under the direction of the health care consultant. The parent/guardian and the health care consultant must have given written informed consent for unlicensed staff to administer an epinephrine auto-injector. The parent/guardian authorization should also contain a separate approval for self-administration by the camper, if applicable.

Training Topics: An approved training will address, at a minimum, the following issues:

1. Confidentiality
2. Understanding Allergic Reactions and the Signs of Anaphylaxis
 - Mild versus Severe Allergic Reaction Symptoms
3. Allergy Management and Exposure Prevention for Campers with a Diagnosed Allergy
4. Emergency Action Plan for Anaphylaxis
5. Proper Use of an Epinephrine Auto-Injector
6. Documentation and Record-keeping

Test of Competency: Each health care supervisor, and other staff, who are trained in the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors under the direction of the health care consultant must have a documented test of competency to administer epinephrine auto-injectors. At a minimum, they must:

1. Demonstrate safe handling, proper storage, and proper disposal of epinephrine auto-injectors.
2. Demonstrate the ability to administer an epinephrine auto-injector properly.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction.
4. Describe allergy management and exposure prevention for campers with a known allergy.
5. Describe the proper emergency action to be taken in response to cases of severe allergic reaction:
 - steps to follow;
 - when to call 911; and
 - notification of parent/guardian.
6. Demonstrate the appropriate and correct record keeping regarding use of an epinephrine auto-injector.
7. Use resources appropriately, including the health care consultant, parent/guardian or emergency services.

¹ If HCS is a Massachusetts licensed physician, nurse or physician's assistant, that certification is evidence of proper training and competency.