

POLICY TITLE: Epinephrine Availability and Use		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/3/2012	LAST RECENTLY AMENDED:	LAST RECENTLY REVIEWED BY:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY:		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to set forth criteria regarding availability of epinephrine in our schools.

II. Introduction

Anaphylaxis is a sudden severe allergic reaction that may involve the skin, respiratory tract, gastrointestinal tract, and/or cardiovascular system. Anaphylaxis may occur as a reaction to insect stings or bites, foods, medications, latex and other allergens. It can also be idiopathic or exercise-induced. Life-threatening reactions may develop very rapidly in susceptible persons. Individuals with asthma are at greatest risk of severe anaphylactic reactions.

Treatment of anaphylaxis is centered on treating the rapidly progressing effects of the histamine release in the body with epinephrine. Epinephrine is the recommended treatment for treating an anaphylactic reaction. It works to reverse the symptoms and helps to prevent its progression. Epinephrine is available by prescription in auto-injectable devices. It is important to administer epinephrine as soon as one detects the symptoms of anaphylaxis.

III. Definitions

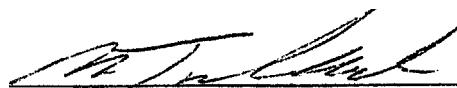
- A. Anaphylaxis- sudden, severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs when an individual is exposed to an allergen.
- B. Auto-injectable epinephrine- a portable, disposable drug delivery device that contains a premeasured single dose of epinephrine that is used to treat anaphylaxis in an emergency situation.

IV. Board Policy

A. School nurses will:

1. Properly store and keep stock doses of epinephrine available for use in emergency situations.
2. Administer auto-injectable epinephrine as per health care provider's orders for students with known anaphylaxis.
3. Administer auto-injectable epinephrine as outlined in the *HCPS Nursing Protocols* for students experiencing anaphylaxis without a known diagnosis of anaphylaxis.
4. Call 911 anytime auto-injectable epinephrine is administered.
5. Follow emergency procedures outlined in the *HCPS Nursing Protocols*.
6. Educate school personnel annually how to recognize symptoms of anaphylaxis.
7. Train designated school personnel to administer auto-injectable epinephrine when the nurse is not available during the school day.
8. Train school personnel to administer auto-injectable epinephrine before chaperoning field trips that include students with health care provider's orders for auto-injectable epinephrine.
9. Complete the "EpiPen® Administration" form after administering the auto-injectable epinephrine for known or unknown anaphylaxis; send completed form to the Nurse Coordinator.

Board Approval Acknowledged By:



Robert M. Tomback, Ph.D., Secretary and Treasurer
Board of Education of Harford County

Policy Action Dates		
ACTION DATE	ACTION DATE	ACTION DATE
Adopted 12/03/2012		

Responsibility for Policy Maintenance & References		
LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER NAME:		JOB POSITION OF LAST EDITOR/DRAFTER:
PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Mary Nasuta		JOB POSITION OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE: Nurse Coordinator
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