

Policy 617

Epinephrine Auto Injector Authorization for BLS Providers

Rev: 2/18

IV. Purpose and Authority:

- A. To establish optional scope authorization for BLS providers to administer epinephrine via auto-injector for cases of severe anaphylaxis
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Sections 100063 and 100064, Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, Section 1797.197.

V. Definitions:

- A. "Anaphylaxis" means a potentially life-threatening hypersensitivity or allergic reaction to a substance.
 - 1. Symptoms of anaphylaxis may include shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing, difficulty talking or swallowing, hives, itching, swelling, shock, or asthma.
 - 2. Causes of anaphylaxis may include, but are not limited to, insect stings or bites, foods, drugs, and other allergens, as well as idiopathic or exercise induced anaphylaxis.
- B. "Epinephrine auto-injector" means a disposable drug delivery system with a spring-activated concealed needle that is designed for emergency administration of epinephrine to provide rapid, convenient first aid for persons suffering from anaphylaxis.

VI. Authorization for Use

- A. A pre-hospital BLS provider employed and on-duty may use an epinephrine auto-injector to render emergency care to another person if all of the following requirements are met:
 - 1. The epinephrine auto-injector is legally obtained by prescription from an authorized health care provider. An authorized health care provider may issue a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector for the provider agency.
 - 2. The epinephrine auto-injector is used on another, with the expressed or implied consent of that person, to treat anaphylaxis.
 - 3. The epinephrine auto-injector is stored and maintained as directed by the manufacturer's instructions for that product.
 - 4. The person using the epinephrine auto-injector has successfully completed a course of training with an authorized training provider and has demonstrated competency at least every 2 years thereafter as applicable.

VII. Training Requirements

- A. Training programs and curriculum shall be reviewed and approved by the EMS Medical Director.
- B. Training in the administration of epinephrine by prefilled syringe and/or drawing up the proper drug dose into a syringe for suspected anaphylaxis and/or severe asthma shall consist of no less than two (2) hours to result in the EMT being competent in the use and administration of epinephrine by prefilled syringe and/or drawing up the proper drug dose into a syringe and managing a patient of a



suspected anaphylactic reaction and/or experiencing severe asthma symptoms. Included in the training hours listed above shall be the following topics and skills:

1. Names
 2. Indications
 3. Contraindications
 4. Complications
 5. Side/adverse effects
 6. Interactions
 7. Routes of administration
 8. Mechanisms of drug actions
 9. Medical asepsis
 10. Disposal of contaminated items and sharps
 11. Medication administration
- C. At the completion of this training, the student shall complete a competency based written and skills examination for the use and/or administration of epinephrine by prefilled syringe and/or drawing up the proper drug dose into a syringe, which shall include:
1. Assessment of when to administer epinephrine,
 2. Managing a patient before and after administering epinephrine,
 3. Using universal precautions and body substance isolation procedures during medication administration,
 4. Demonstrating aseptic technique during medication administration,
 5. Demonstrating preparation and administration of epinephrine by prefilled auto-injector
 6. Proper disposal of contaminated items and sharps.

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