

WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Issue Date: 2 October 2017

STATUS: ACTION

CATEGORY: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LETTER

Title: Amendment to the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 – Supply and Use of Adrenaline Auto Injectors in Schools.

Date of Expiry / Review This Welsh Health Circular remains in force until such time as it is replaced.

For Action by:
Chief Pharmacists

Action required by:
4 October 2017

Sender: Pharmacy and Prescribing Branch, Health and Social Services Group

HSSG Welsh Government Contact(s) :

Andrew Evans, Chief Pharmaceutical Officer, Health and Social Services Group, Welsh Government, Crown Buildings, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Enclosure(s): CPhO Letter

WHC/2017/046

Dear Chief Pharmacist

AMENDMENT TO THE HUMAN MEDICINES REGULATIONS 2012 – SUPPLY AND USE OF ADRENALINE AUTO INJECTORS IN SCHOOLS

Purpose

1. To inform you of the introduction of the exemption allowing schools to obtain, hold and use adrenaline auto-injectors in the emergency treatment of anaphylactic reactions.

Background

2. Following advice from the Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have recommended changes to UK legislation to enable schools to hold adrenaline auto-injectors for use in treating an emergency anaphylaxis.

3. Following agreement by the UK and Welsh Government and other devolved administrations, an amendment to the Human Medicines Regulations (2012) allows schools, from 1 October 2017, to obtain adrenaline auto-injectors, without prescription, for use in the emergency treatment of anaphylactic reactions.

4. It is not required that schools hold adrenaline auto-injectors; this is a discretionary power enabling schools to do so, if they so wish.

5. An adrenaline auto-injector can be used if the child or young person's prescribed adrenaline auto-injectors are not available, for example because it has misfired. School held adrenaline auto-injectors should only be used by children or young people:

- who have been diagnosed as being at risk of anaphylaxis, and prescribed an adrenaline auto-injector;
- for whom parent/carer consent for use of the adrenaline auto-injector has been given; and

From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer

Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ	Llywodraeth Cymru Parc Cathays Caerdydd CF10 3NQ
---	---

WHC/2017/046

Electronic distribution to:

Chief Executives, LHBs
Chief Executive, Velindre NHS Trust
Chief Pharmacists, LHBs
Chief Executive, Welsh Ambulance Service
Chief Executive, Public Health Wales
Chief Dental Officer
Directors of Public Health, LHBs
Medical Directors, LHBs
Nurse Directors, LHBs
Prison Service
Wales Inspectorate/Advisers
Director, Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Chief Executive, Community Pharmacy Wales

For onward circulation to:

All Hospital Chief Pharmacists
All registered Community Pharmacists in Wales

For further information please contact:

Andrew Evans
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ
03000 259 260

© Crown copyright 2017
This circular may be freely reproduced by all those to whom it has been addressed.

- whose own prescribed adrenaline auto-injector cannot be administered correctly, without delay.

6. Schools that choose to keep adrenaline auto-injectors should put in place a policy supporting their appropriate use. Guidance has been developed with the Department for Education and Skills providing advice on content of such policies . This guidance is available at: www.learning.gov.wales

Action

7. Schools should purchase adrenaline auto-injectors from a registered pharmacy. Schools are permitted to buy adrenaline auto-injectors and pharmacies are allowed to supply them provided such supplies represent small quantities, and take place on an occasional basis and are not for profit.

8. In requesting a supply, a school must furnish the pharmacy with a request from the school signed by the head-teacher (or acting head-teacher), ideally on appropriately headed school paper, stating:

- the name of the school for which the product is required;
- the purpose for which that product is required, and
- the total quantity required.

9. Schools may wish to discuss the different adrenaline auto-injectors available with a pharmacist. Schools may require advice on use of the adrenaline auto-injectors. Schools will be aware that pharmacies will charge for the cost of adrenaline auto-injectors and may add a handling charge.

10. In the event a school has reason to utilise an adrenaline auto-injector, they have been advised to ensure used adrenaline auto-injectors are handed to the attending ambulance.



Andrew Evans
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer for Wales

