

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. 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.

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