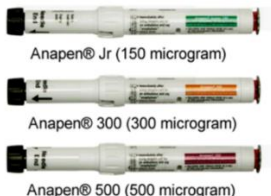



## Introduction of Anapen® into NSW Schools – NSWAEF Recommendations

Anapen® is a single use adrenaline (epinephrine) injector for the treatment of severe allergic reactions. It will be available in Australia from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 in three dose strengths:

- 150 microgram for young children (7.5 Kg to 20 Kg )
- 300 microgram for children (>20 Kg) and adults
- 500 microgram for anyone weighing more than 50 Kg.

With the introduction of a second adrenaline injector a proportion of NSW school students at risk of anaphylaxis may be prescribed an Anapen® as their personal adrenaline injector (AI). The Anapen® and EpiPen® are completely different devices in look, mechanism and administration technique (see table below).

	 <p>Anapen® Jr (150 microgram) Anapen® 300 (300 microgram) Anapen® 500 (500 microgram)</p>	 <p>EpiPen junior (150mcg) EpiPen (300mcg)</p>
<b>Administration technique</b>	<b>Anapen®</b>	<b>EpiPen®</b>
Number of steps for administration	<b>4 steps</b>	3 steps
Number of safety caps to be removed	<b>2*</b>	1
Hand position	<b>Thumb on the end of the device</b>	Fist (with thumb on fingers)
Activation technique	<b>Press red button with thumb</b>	Press whole device onto leg
Hold time	<b>10 seconds</b>	3 seconds
Injection site	<b>Massage site</b>	No action
Needle after use	<b>Exposed+</b>	Covered by protective casing

\*In addition to the two safety caps, Anapen has a second small, grey needle guard that comes away automatically when the larger black needle safety cap is removed.

+ There is a risk of needle stick injury if re-sheathing the exposed needle is attempted.

The NSWAEF does not envisage Anapen prescription rates will become the majority market share for school age children at risk of anaphylaxis.

## Recommendations:

- NSW schools continues to use the EpiPen® 300mcg as the first aid/general use AI in primary and high schools
- All AIs are to be stored with the appropriate ASCIA action plan (AAP) which has instructions for device
- Be aware that due to substitution at the pharmacy level, students may come to school with a device that does not match the ASCIA action plan held by the school.
- Re-sheathing of an exposed needle is **not recommended** (*note that this recommendation contradicts currently published advice from the manufacturer and from Allergy and Anaphylaxis Australia*)
- Personal Anapen® to be stored with the AAP in a rigid, plastic storage container clearly labelled.
- Used Anapen® is to be contained in an appropriate container until it can be safely disposed of.
- Although it is preferable to use student's personally prescribed device when available, staff familiarity and comfort with device is an acceptable reason to use school's general use adrenaline injector even when the student's personally prescribed device is available.

[https://www.allergy.org.au/images/stories/anaphylaxis/2021/ASCIA\\_PCC\\_Adrenaline\\_Injector\\_FAQ\\_2021.pdf](https://www.allergy.org.au/images/stories/anaphylaxis/2021/ASCIA_PCC_Adrenaline_Injector_FAQ_2021.pdf)

<https://allergyfacts.org.au/resources/videos-from-a-aa/how-to-give-anapen>

## New Best Practice Guidelines for Australian Schools

- Includes Best Practice Guidelines
- Supporting Documents

<https://www.allergyaware.org.au/>