



December 2006

Dear Director of Education,

Re: Epinephrine Auto-injectors

We recognize the increased efforts of school boards and schools to safeguard students at risk of anaphylaxis. These efforts are much appreciated and can help to reduce the risk of accidental exposure and ensure that proper measures are taken in the event of an emergency.

As you may know, there are currently two epinephrine auto-injectors available in Canada for the emergency treatment of anaphylaxis: EpiPen[®] and Twinject[®]. The decision to have one device or the other is one which should be made by the patient (or parent) and their physician. It has come to our attention that the Twinject[®] brand is not being allowed in some schools in Ontario. We strongly suggest that either product be accepted since both brands provide life-saving medication.

In many cases, the early injection of one dose of epinephrine is sufficient to control a reaction. We recommend, however, that students have a back-up dose available as a precautionary measure. Since there may be students in your school environment who are carrying a Twinject[®], it is important for staff to be familiar with the product. The Twinject[®] includes an auto-injector for the first dose and a back-up dose that is administered manually. We recommend that students carry the device that was recommended by their physician whether it be one or two auto-injectors.

We recommend regular anaphylaxis training sessions to ensure that staff is familiar with the proper use of an epinephrine auto-injector. These sessions should include hands-on practice with both EpiPen[®] and Twinject[®] training devices. To further support training efforts, we encourage you and your school staff to visit the following sites:

- **www.allergysafecommunities.ca**: companion website to Canadian anaphylaxis guidelines
- **www.eworkshop.on.ca/allergies**: on-line resource for educators
- **www.epipen.ca**
- **www.twinject.ca**

Questions about anaphylaxis can be directed to the following allergy associations:

- Allergy/Asthma Information Association (AAIA)
www.aaia.ca / Toll-free: 1-800-611-7011
- Anaphylaxis Canada
www.anaphylaxis.ca / Toll-free: 1-866-785-5660
- Association québécoise des allergies alimentaires (AQAA)
www.aqaa.qc.ca / Toll-free: 1-800-990-2575
- Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI)
www.csaci.ca / Tel: 613-730-6272

We would be pleased to meet with representatives of school boards, public health units, and others, such as teaching staff, who are interested in learning more about the use of epinephrine auto-injectors and anaphylaxis in general. A local meeting could be organized if there is sufficient interest. Kindly contact Adil Mamodaly, Bill 3 Liaison, Anaphylaxis Canada, email – bill3@anaphylaxis.ca or call toll-free (866) 785-5660, ext. 4104 / (416) 785-5666, ext. 4104 (GTA).

The health and safety of children is a concern that we all share. We thank you and your school staff for your ongoing efforts to protect and support allergic students.

Sincerely,



Charles Frankish, MD, FRCPC
President
Canadian Society of Allergy and
Clinical Immunology



Susan Waserman, MD, FRCPC
Past President
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cc:

Eric Leith MD, Chair, Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation
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Louise Tremblay, Executive Director, CSACI Secretariat