

## **EPINEPHRINE: PREMEASURED INJECTION DEVICE, EPIPEN® (brand)**

**ACTION:** Stimulates both  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  receptors; bronchodilator, cardiac stimulator, and peripheral vasoconstrictor

**INDICATIONS:**

1. Patients experiencing a severe allergic reaction from stings or other allergens (anaphylactic shock or impending respiratory or cardiac arrest)

**PRECAUTIONS:**

1. Patients who have known allergic reactions to insect bites or other allergens will often have epinephrine prescribed in the form of an EpiPen® (or other similar device) that delivers an injection of pre-measured epinephrine.
2. **Use with caution in patients > 40 years.**
3. At the time when a request to deliver or assist a patient with their epinephrine is made, any suspected complicating conditions, such as the following, should be reported:
  - Heart disease
  - Psychosis
  - Hypertension history
  - Age > 40 years
  - COPD
  - Glaucoma
  - Pulmonary edema
  - Hyperthyroidism
  - Pregnancy

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

1. There are no absolute contraindications to the use of epinephrine in a life-threatening situation.

**ADMINISTRATION:**

1. In severe anaphylaxis, EMTs may assist a patient in administering their own prescribed EpiPen. BLS services with medication training may administer an EpiPen carried by that service to a patient in severe anaphylaxis. BLS providers should consult with the Medical Control Physician for orders in patients with non-severe anaphylaxis. Paramedics can administer as they would epi 1:1000 solution.
2. If possible, immediately remove insect stinger, but do not squeeze, pinch, or push it deeper into the skin.
3. Obtain order from medical control physician.
4. Assist in administration. Refer to specific manufacturer instructions, but generally:
5. EpiPen administration:
  - A. Pull off safety cap.
  - B. Wipe injection site with alcohol.
  - C. Place tip of EpiPen on exposed thigh (anterior/lateral) at right angle to the leg. Apply in this area regardless of what area of the body has been stung.
  - D. Press hard into thigh until autoinjector mechanism triggers, and hold in place for several seconds. Remove the EpiPen and discard into sharps container.
  - E. Massage injection site for 10 seconds to enhance absorption.
  - F. With persistent severe anaphylaxis, additional injections may be necessary. Consult with Medical Control Physician if a second dose is indicated.
6. Document any changes in patient condition.

**PEDIATRIC CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. In severe anaphylaxis, EMTs may assist a patient in administering their own prescribed EpiPen.
2. BLS services with medication training should contact medical control prior to administering an EpiPen carried by that service to a patient in severe anaphylaxis.
3. The EpiPen comes in two available dosing options: EpiPen delivers 0.3 mg (in 0.3 cc) of 1:1,000 epinephrine IM. EpiPen Jr. delivers 0.15 mg (in 0.3 cc) of 1:2,000 epinephrine IM and is intended for use in patients < 60 lbs.