

EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTOR

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Indication: Exhibits signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction, including either respiratory distress or shock (hypoperfusion).
3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Body Substance Isolation.
 - 3.2. Patient suffers from a severe allergic reaction.
 - 3.3. Perform initial assessment. Provide oxygen as indicated.
 - 3.4. Perform a focused history and physical exam. Obtain SAMPLE history.
 - 3.5. Assess the patient's vital signs.
 - 3.6. Choose appropriate auto-injector
 - 3.6.1. Epi. Pen—patients weighing 30 kg or more
 - 3.6.2. Epi. Pen Jr.—patients weighing < 30 kg
 - 3.7. Check expiration date. Check for cloudiness or discoloration if liquid is visible.
 - 3.8. Press the injector against the patient's thigh (lateral portion of thigh, midway between waist and knee) to trigger release of the spring-loaded needle and inject the dose of epinephrine into the patient. Hold the injector in place until the medication is injected (at least 10 seconds).
 - 3.9. Dispose of the used injector in a portable biohazard container.
 - 3.10. Document patient's response to the medication. Record activity and time.
 - 3.11. Perform ongoing assessment, paying special attention to the patient's ABCs and vital signs, en route to the hospital.