



Shortage of EpiPen®



EpiPen® and EpiPen® Junior (adrenaline auto-injector devices) will be subject to limited availability for the remainder of 2018. Mylan are currently (September 2018) out-of-stock of EpiPen® Junior, with continued interruptions in supply anticipated in the coming months.

Information about the supply situation, as well as recommended courses of action to help manage the consequences is available from the [SPS website](#). This link has been added to the EpiPen® entry in the Tayside Area Formulary (TAF).

Information includes:

- a copy of the [supply disruption alert from the Department of Health and Social Care](#)
- a copy of the [British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology \(BSACI\) guidance](#) on prescribing an adrenaline auto-injector
- a [document from SPS](#) summarising key differences between the 3 available presentations of adrenaline prefilled syringes/auto-injectors
- two documents from NHS Improvement advising on methods to preserve existing stock in primary care, [one for healthcare professionals](#) and one [specifically for dental practitioners](#)
- a [document from the Department of Health and Social Care](#) giving advice to schools
- a [letter from Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety](#) giving advice to parents /carers about the Junior EpiPen® shortage and relevant advice. **GPs, Pharmacists and allergy specialists should share this with patients/parents affected by this shortage.**

Any further information will be updated on the SPS website as new information becomes available.

Key Facts:

- The shortage of EpiPen® is ongoing and it may also be difficult to obtain alternative auto-injector devices (Jext®, Emerade®).
- The supply of these devices should be prioritised to patients and families who may require to use them.
- Patients may need to switch to an alternative device depending on availability. If this is necessary it is essential that they are given appropriate training and support material to ensure that they are able to use the device when required.
- Restrictions are in place on ordering 150mcg adrenaline auto-injectors and pharmacists need to validate whether prescriptions should be fulfilled as per attached guidance. [Interim protocol ref 08564](#) and [Pharmacy Q & A EpiPen and Epipen junior ref 08564](#).
- Healthcare staff in clinical areas are advised to use adrenaline 1:1000 ampoules if required to manage anaphylaxis as per [BNF Guidance](#). These are already widely available in clinical areas across NHS Tayside. Each area should ensure that they are able to access this product urgently should they require it.
- An auto-injector will continue to be included in the Paediatric Emergency Boxes as supplies allow. If no auto-injector devices are available then adrenaline 1:1000 ampoules will be added to the box with appropriate cautionary labelling.
- See [www.epipen.co.uk](#) for specific batches of EpiPen® 300mcg strength that can have the expiry date extended by 4 months.
- See [www.jext.co.uk](#) for specific batches of Jext® 150mcg and 300mcg strengths that can have the expiry date extended by 4 months.
- Expiry dates refer to the end of the month, i.e. a device labelled expiry October 18 means the product can be used up until the 31st of October 2018.

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