

This document has been developed by [ASCIA](http://ascia.org.au), the peak professional body of clinical immunology/allergy specialists in Australia and New Zealand. ASCIA information is based on published literature and expert review, is not influenced by commercial organisations and is not intended to replace medical advice. For patient or carer support contact [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](http://allergy.org.au) or [Allergy New Zealand](http://allergy.org.nz).

There are two brands of adrenaline (epinephrine) devices, EpiPen® and Anapen®:

- **EpiPen® (300 mcg) and EpiPen® Jr (150 mcg)** are rebated by the PBS in Australia and Pharmac in New Zealand.
- **Anapen® 500** is rebated by the PBS in Australia.

Adrenaline devices are prescribed as follows:

- 150 mcg devices for children weighing 7.5 to 20kg.
- 300 mcg devices for children weighing over 20kg and adults, including pregnant women.
- 500 mcg or 300 mcg devices for children weighing over 50kg and adults, including pregnant women.

1. Dispense prescribed adrenaline devices

- Dispense prescribed devices and check that the appropriate dose has been prescribed (see above).
- Check that the patient has been prescribed two devices, which are rebated by the PBS in Australia and Pharmac in New Zealand.
- Remind the customer (patient and/or carer) to check and note the expiry date of their device/s.
- Check that the patient has an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis (RED) that should have been completed by their doctor or nurse practitioner.
- Reinforce the need for the patient to always carry their adrenaline device and ASCIA Action Plan.
- Check that the patient's asthma is well managed and refer them back to their doctor or nurse practitioner if further action is required. Patients at risk of severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) who have asthma that is not well controlled are at increased risk of fatal anaphylaxis.

2. Dispense non-prescribed adrenaline devices

- Dispense adrenaline device/s to customers (patients/carers or organisations) for use in addition to prescribed devices, or in first aid kits. Non-prescribed devices are not rebated by PBS or Pharmac.
- Remind the customer to check and note the expiry date of their adrenaline device/s.
- Check that the customer has an ASCIA First Aid Plan for Anaphylaxis (ORANGE) that should be stored with non-prescribed device/s. These plans are available at www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis

3. Provide adrenaline device advice, education and training

- Teach the customer how to use their prescribed or non-prescribed adrenaline device/s using a trainer device. In Australia, trainer devices are available from the suppliers or [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](http://allergy.org.au). In New Zealand, EpiPen trainer devices can be accessed for free at myepipen.co.nz.
- Educate the customer about [correct storage of adrenaline devices](#), away from excessive heat or cooling. Ensure the customer understands that adrenaline is the first line treatment for anaphylaxis and that antihistamines should not be used for the treatment for anaphylaxis. If antihistamines are used to treat mild to moderate allergic reactions, only non-sedating antihistamines should be used.

4. Be prepared for an anaphylaxis emergency

- Train staff to recognise the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, how to position the patient, how to administer adrenaline devices and to phone an ambulance immediately afterwards.
- Display ASCIA Action First Aid Plans for Anaphylaxis (ORANGE) to assist staff in recognising and responding to an anaphylaxis emergency.

For adrenaline device supply updates check www.allergy.org.au/members/adrenaline-device-availability

© ASCIA 2025

Content updated March 2025

For more information go to www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis

To support allergy and immunology research go to www.allergyimmunology.org.au/donate