

Information

FOR PATIENTS, CONSUMERS AND CARERS

Adrenaline (Epinephrine) Injectors - Fast Facts

1. Adrenaline can save lives when used to treat anaphylaxis

ASCIA recommends adrenaline as the first line, emergency treatment for anaphylaxis (severe allergic reactions), using **either** of the two adrenaline injector brands listed below, which are:

- PBS listed in Australia (EpiPen[®] is Pharmac listed in New Zealand from 1 February 2023).
- Widely used in other countries.

Anapen [®] Supplier: Allergy Concepts	EpiPen[®] Supplier: Viatris
Anapen® Jr (150 microgram) Anapen® 300 (300 microgram)	EpiPen® Junior (150 microgram) EpiPen® (300 microgram)
 Doses recommended by ASCIA Anapen[®] 150 (Jr): Children 7.5-20 kg (~1-5 yr.) Anapen[®] 300: Adults or children >20kg (>5 yr.) Anapen[®] 500*: Adults or children >50kg (>12 yr.) 	 Doses recommended by ASCIA: EpiPen[®] Junior: Children 7.5-20 kg (~1-5 yr.) EpiPen[®]: Adults or children >20kg (>5 yr.) EpiPen[®]: Adults or children >50kg (>12 yr.)

*The dose of adrenaline in Anapen 500 is consistent with the intramuscular injection (IMI) adrenaline dose recommendations in <u>several publications</u> for people who weigh >50kg.

2. It is important to know how to use Anapen[®] and EpiPen[®] devices



Anapen® (4 steps) and EpiPen® (3 steps) are both injected into the outer mid-thigh, but they have different instructions, which are on the device labels and the <u>ASCIA website</u>

<u>ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis</u> are available for each brand, or a generic plan with this QR code can be used, which links to instructions for both brands <u>www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/how-to-give-injector</u>

Instructions for both brands are included in <u>ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training courses</u>

3. There are many reasons why it is important to have two brands

- To ensure continued supply of life saving adrenaline, particularly if one brand has stock shortages.
- To encourage suppliers to provide devices with longer shelf life.
- To provide a choice of dose, if prescribers prefer a higher dose (500 microgram device) for people >50kg, which may reduce the need for further adrenaline doses in older teens and adults >50kg.
- To provide choice for consumers to access devices with points of difference to best suit their needs.

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