

To: **MSO Network, GP Practices, Community Pharmacies**

From: **Aidan Fowler (National Director – Patient Safety)**

Date: **09 October 2018**

Adrenaline for anaphylaxis kits - a reminder to Health Care Professionals

You will be aware of the recent DHSC Supply Disruption [Alert](#) on EpiPen® and EpiPen Junior® adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) that advises conserving supplies for patients who truly need them. Some healthcare professionals may be holding EpiPens, or other AAIs, in preference to adrenaline ampoules to treat anaphylactic reactions; this should not be necessary.

All healthcare professionals providing services where anaphylaxis treatment may be required, including but not exclusive to flu vaccination services, should have the competency to draw up and administer adrenaline from ampoules with a normal syringe and needle.

Due to the shortage, we ask that when you renew the adrenaline in your anaphylaxis kits, you alert all your staff to please stock ampoules (ensuring you also include dosing charts, needles and syringes) and not AAIs. This will reduce the reliance on AAIs and therefore preserve essential EpiPen stocks for patients, parents, carers, teachers, etc. who, as lay persons, cannot be expected to administer adrenaline via a needle and syringe.

The [Green Book](#) and [Resus Council guidance](#) provides additional advice to healthcare professionals on the use of adrenaline in response to anaphylaxis. Pharmacists providing vaccination services may also wish to refer to [PSNC FAQs](#). Supplies of adrenaline ampoules are currently available and there is an expectation that healthcare professionals should use these in preference to the EpiPen or similar devices.

All enquiries relating to this issue should be sent to the DH Supply Resilience Team at supplyresiliencemd@dh.gsi.gov.uk

We are working to resolve the EpiPen® and EpiPen Junior® shortage as fast as possible. Thank you in advance for all your help.