

16 October 2018

**Gateway Publications Reference: 08564**

## **INTERIM PROTOCOL ON DISPENSING OF ADRENALINE AUTO-INJECTORS, 150microgram**

*This validation protocol has been developed to ensure consistent practice nationally and to prevent the need for any local re-interpretation.*

You will be aware of the recent DHSC Supply Disruption Alert on EpiPen® and EpiPen Junior® adrenaline auto-injectors (AAs) that advises conserving supplies for patients who truly need them. We have now reached a critical supply issue and need to implement controls on the supply of 150microgram adrenaline auto injectors. Children weighing 25kg or less with the greatest short term need must have access to these first, ensuring that every patient has at least one in date 150microgram adrenaline auto injector. This can only be achieved by restricting issue of new devices until further notice. Consequently, all prescriptions (private and NHS) must be validated prior to supply to the community pharmacy or dispensing doctor practice, for a named patient from the wholesaler, by utilising the flow chart below.

**Questions:** The pharmacist or dispensing doctor practice must clearly explain the above situation to the patient/ parent/ carer and address any questions they may have. A letter for parents was issued on 15th October and was also attached to a CAS Alert you will have received on the same day.

The pharmacist, or dispensing doctor practice, must follow the flow chart prior to supply of 150microgram adrenaline auto injectors other than when there is an immediate clinical need. All patients need to have access to a minimum of two 150microgram adrenaline auto injectors – in this critical shortage period it is sufficient if just one of these is in-date (in this context meaning at least one month left before expiry) provided the patient also carries an expired device as back-up which is not discoloured and contains no precipitate. **If only one device is supplied against a prescription for two devices then the patient should be advised to obtain a new prescription for the 2<sup>nd</sup> device when supply eases or they use a device.**

It is important to note when validating the expiry date of 150microgram adrenaline auto injectors, the product expires on the **last** day of the month indicated e.g. a device with an expiry date of 'October 2018 does not expire until the **END** of October 2018.

Patients/ carers/ parents should check the contents of the glass cartridge in the auto injector through the viewing window to examine the contents. The auto injector should be discarded if it contains a precipitate or is discoloured.

**If a supply is made:**

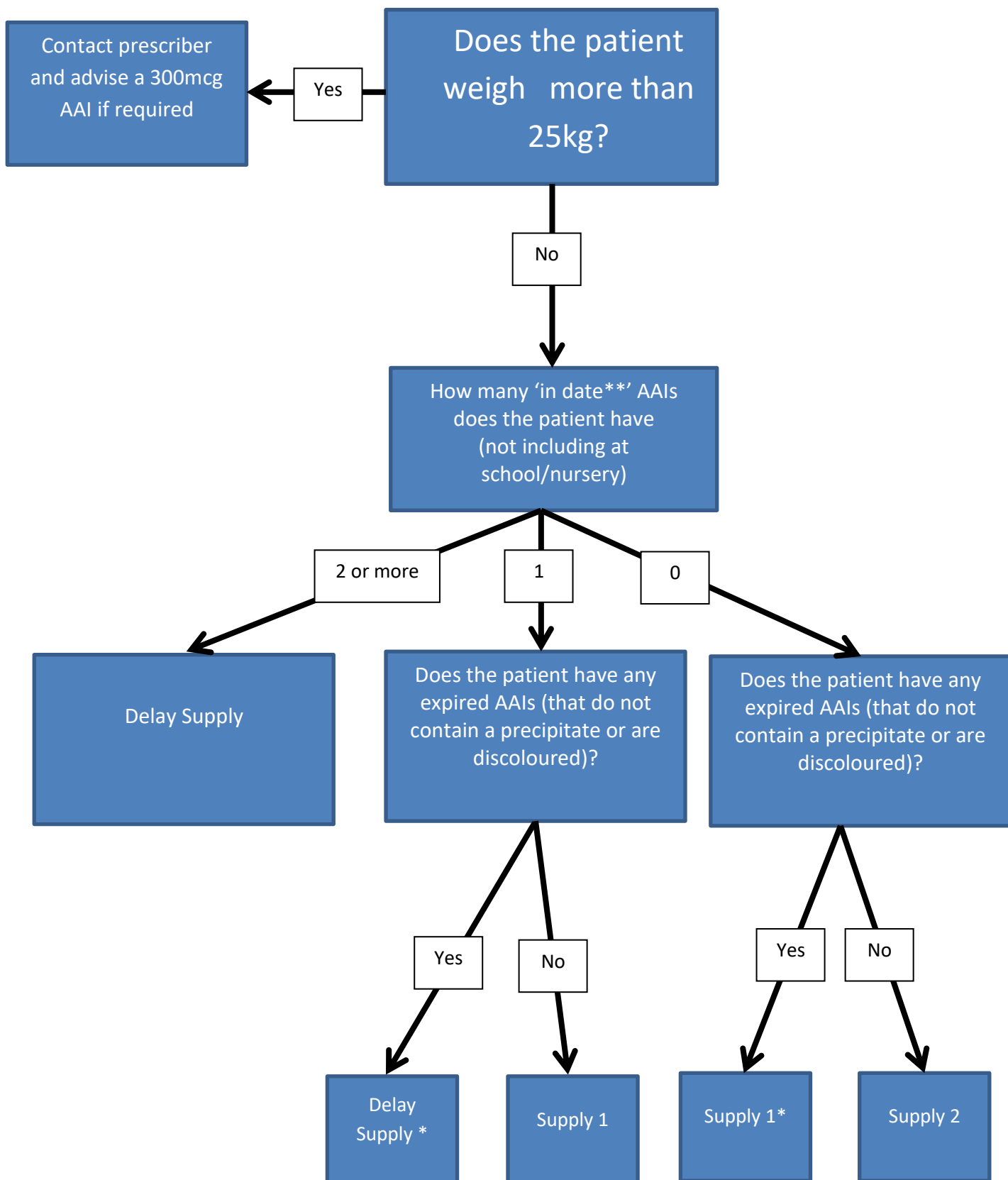
Check if the patient/ carer/ parent who will be using the 150microgram adrenaline auto injectors has used the issued brand of 150microgram adrenaline auto-injector before? If no see links below for training information:

- Emerade 150 Training Video:  
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5278/rmms>
- Jext 150 Training Video:  
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5747/rmms>
- EpiPen Junior Training Video:  
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4290/rmms>

**If a supply is not made:**

Explain to the patient/ carer/ parent that the prescription will be dispensed at a later date when a supply is available. Explain that if the situation changes and they use one of their pens to return to the pharmacy for supply. The pharmacists or dispensing doctor practice should speak to/contact the prescriber if there is any uncertainty about the best course of action for the patient and to assess any risks to the patient.

We currently have a limited supply with more stock anticipated at the end of the month. We are working to resolve the EpiPen® and EpiPen Junior® shortage as fast as possible; this advice is interim, will be reviewed and relaxed whenever possible, but remains in force until further notice.



\* Advise the patient/parent/carer that expired device should be retained and carried as a back-up along with the in date device.

\*\*N.B. the product expires on the last day of the month indicated e.g. a device with an expiry date of 'October 2018' does not expire until the **END** of October 2018.