

Utilization of Epinephrine Vial or Ampule by BLS personnel for Anaphylaxis

Following completion of the training module and successful completion of the written and skills testing, EMTs are now authorized to draw up and administer epinephrine effective August 27, 2012.

This addendum is an addition to, and does not replace, the Washington State EMT-Basic Field Protocols. Arrange for ALS rendezvous as soon as possible.

Once it has been determined that epinephrine is indicated based on the Washington State EMT-Basic Field Protocols, the provider has the option to administer intramuscular (IM) epinephrine drawn from a vial or ampule, rather than using an auto-injector pen.

Epinephrine Dosage:

1. Adults and children over 30 kg: 0.3 mg of 1:1,000
2. Pediatrics: 0.01 mg/kg of 1:1,000 for children under 30 kg. If in doubt, use 0.15 mg of 1:1,000 which is the Pediatric Epi Pen dose.

Procedure:

1. Scrub the skin vigorously with an alcohol wipe.
2. Break open ampule, or if using a vial, cleanse vial with alcohol wipe.
3. Insert the needle into the ampule or vial and withdraw the appropriate volume of medication.
4. Hold the needle upright and push any air bubbles or extra medication out of the syringe.
5. Broadly hold the muscle. Do not pinch the skin. The anterolateral thigh is the preferred injection site, though in adults the deltoid muscle is also an option.
6. Hold the syringe like a dart. Insert the needle with a quick stab at a 90 angle to the skin surface.
7. Depress the plunger with a slow, steady motion until the syringe is empty.
8. Discard the syringe in an appropriate sharps container.
9. Cover the puncture site with an adhesive bandage.
10. Reassess your patient and take vitals every 5 minutes
11. If patient's vitals and signs/symptoms have not improved within 10 minutes call medical control or incoming medic unit for permission to give a second equivalent dose.