

GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND PHARMACIES ON SUPPLYING EMERGENCY EPINEPHRINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS TO NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

1. Does North Carolina law now require schools to have emergency epinephrine delivery systems on hand?

Yes. All North Carolina public schools and charter schools to have “in a secure but unlocked and easily accessible location a minimum of two epinephrine delivery systems.” G.S. § 115C-375.2A(a)

2. Why is this required?

So that schools can “provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an anaphylactic reaction during the school day and at school-sponsored events on school property.” G.S. § 115C-375.2A(a)

3. What is an “epinephrine delivery system”?

An “epinephrine delivery system” is “a disposable drug delivery system that is designed for emergency administration of epinephrine to provide rapid, convenient first aid for persons suffering a potentially fatal reaction to anaphylaxis, including nasal sprays and injectors that are approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration with a premeasured, appropriate weight-based dose of epinephrine.” G.S. § 115C-375.2A(b)

3. Who is responsible for obtaining epinephrine delivery systems for the school?

Each school’s principal “shall designate one or more school personnel, as part of the medical care program under G.S. 115C-373.1, to receive initial training and annual retraining from a school nurse or qualified representative of the health department regarding the storage and emergency use of epinephrine delivery systems.” G.S. § 115C-375.2A(c). The school nurse or other designated, trained school personnel are responsible for obtaining the delivery systems for their individual school.

4. How does the school nurse or other designated school personnel get a “prescription” for an epinephrine delivery system?

The appropriate school personnel “shall obtain a non-patient specific prescription for an epinephrine delivery system from a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner of the local health department serving the area in which the local school administrative unit is located.” G.S. § 115C-375.2A(c)

A list of local health departments in North Carolina is found [here](#).

5. If the prescription is “non-patient specific”, whose name should be on it?

The law does not specify a specific name to be placed on the prescription. The statute does, however, state that the specifically designated school nurse or other trained personnel are responsible for obtaining the prescription for an individual school. G.S. § 115C-375.2A(c)

Consistent with general requirements of the North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act, it would be appropriate to have either:

(a) the individual school’s name; or (b) the designated school nurse or other trained person’s name on the prescription; or (c) both.

Moreover, and also as required by the North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act, the epinephrine delivery systems must be appropriately labeled when dispensed to the designated school personnel. Therefore, the label must likewise contain either the individual school’s name or the designated school nurse or other trained person’s name, or both (for example, “Joe Smith on behalf of Springfield Elementary School.”) Again, as required by the North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act for dispensing any prescription drug, all appropriate information must be included by the dispensing pharmacy on the labeling.

6. Where can the school nurse or other designated school personnel get an epinephrine delivery system dispensed?

There are at least three options available:

- (a) Any North Carolina-licensed pharmacy may receive prescriptions for, and dispense, epinephrine delivery systems to school personnel under this statute.
- (b) Registered nurses at local health departments may dispense epinephrine delivery systems prescribed in compliance with this statute.
- (c) One manufacturer of epinephrine auto-injectors, BioRidge Pharma, has a program available through which schools may obtain EpiPen® auto-injectors without cost. BioRidge Pharma works with pharmacies to obtain the auto-injectors and provide them directly to schools. More information on this program is found here: <http://epipen4schools.com/> Please note that personnel from BioRidge Pharma have indicated to Board staff that they work with participating pharmacies to ensure appropriate dispensing and labeling. As noted above in Question #6, epinephrine auto-injectors are prescription drugs and must be dispensed and labeled in compliance with the overall requirements of the North Carolina Pharmacy Practice Act.

7. Which epinephrine delivery system should a school acquire?

The statute does not specify a particular “brand” or type of epinephrine delivery system.

It is critically important that schools and pharmacies ensure that the designated school personnel are trained to use the **specific** epinephrine delivery system that is prescribed and dispensed.

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