

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 232
(A-22)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Expansion of Epinephrine Entity Stocking Legislation

Referred to: Reference Committee B

- 1 Whereas, Up to 5% of the US population has suffered anaphylaxis¹; and
2
3 Whereas, Common triggers of anaphylaxis are food, drugs, venom, and blood products²; and
4
5 Whereas, 5% to 8% of US children and 2% to 3% of US adults are at risk for anaphylaxis due to
6 food allergy¹; and
7
8 Whereas, Only 40.7% of children and 25% of adults with food allergies have an epinephrine
9 auto-injector prescription^{3,4}; and
10
11 Whereas, Low rates of epinephrine possession are particularly concerning given that nearly
12 40% of food-allergic adults reported at least one lifetime food allergy-related emergency
13 department visit, and more than half reported a history of one or more severe food-allergic
14 reactions⁴; and
15
16 Whereas, The prevalence of penicillin allergy in the US is 10%, with 6.8% suffering from
17 anaphylaxis⁵; and
18
19 Whereas, Most deaths from anaphylaxis have been associated with delayed administration of
20 epinephrine⁶; and
21
22 Whereas, A study showed that patients who received epinephrine earlier were less likely to be
23 hospitalized compared to those who received it later at the emergency room (17% vs 43%)⁷;
24 and
25
26 Whereas, Accidental injections can occur in a variety of circumstances, such as placing the
27 thumb on the tip of the epinephrine auto-injector during administration or children playing with
28 the devices⁸; and
29
30 Whereas, While recent data suggests that accidental epinephrine injections and lacerations are
31 a serious concern, these appear to be rare adverse events and usually require limited medical
32 intervention⁸; and
33
34 Whereas, To ensure proper treatment of anaphylaxis, epinephrine auto-injectors should always
35 be replaced before they expire⁸; and
36
37 Whereas, In situations concerning the safety and efficacy of expired epinephrine, overall, the
38 benefits of using epinephrine auto-injectors outweigh the potential risks⁸; and
39

1 Whereas, As of July 2019, 36 states have passed epinephrine entity stocking laws that allow
2 authorized entities defined by each state to obtain and administer epinephrine auto-injectors to
3 individuals undergoing an anaphylactic reaction⁹; and
4

5 Whereas, All authorized entities with possession of epinephrine auto-injectors are required to
6 complete any certification and training requirements set forth by their state health department¹⁰;
7 and
8

9 Whereas, Completion of certification requirements for epinephrine auto-injectors typically
10 protects the entity, employees of the entity, and healthcare providers prescribing epinephrine
11 from any subsequent liabilities¹⁰; and
12

13 Whereas, The passage of an epinephrine entity stocking law in Michigan was cited as a reason
14 for the University of Michigan to have onsite auto-injectable epinephrine in their dining halls
15 starting in fall 2019¹¹; and
16

17 Whereas, Following the passage of the Emergency Allergy Treatment Act in Florida, multiple
18 Disney resorts implemented the stocking of epinephrine auto-injectors in 2014^{12,13}; and
19

20 Whereas, Individual states have defined authorized entities differently with many states
21 employing broad definitions, such as the state of Florida that has defined one as "an entity or
22 organization at which allergens capable of causing anaphylaxis may be present"^{10,12}; therefore
23 be it
24

25 RESOLVED, That our AMA support the adoption of laws that allow state-authorized entities to
26 permit the storage of auto-injectable epinephrine for use in case of an emergency. (Directive to
27 Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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References:

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Decreasing Epinephrine Auto-Injector Accidents and Misuse H-115.968

Our AMA: 1) encourages physicians to review standard epinephrine auto-injector administration protocol with patients upon initial prescription and on follow-up visits; and 2) encourages improved product design and labeling of epinephrine auto-injectors.

Res. 513, A-11; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-21

Food Allergic Reactions in Schools and Airplanes H-440.884

Our AMA recommends that all:

- (1) schools provide increased student and teacher education on the danger of food allergies;
 - (2) schools have a set of emergency food allergy guidelines and emergency anaphylaxis kits on the premises, and that at least one member of the school administration be trained and certified in the indications for and techniques of their use; and
 - (3) commercial airlines have a set of emergency food allergy guidelines and emergency anaphylaxis kits on the premises, and that at least one member of the flight staff, such as the head flight attendant, be trained and certified in the indications for and techniques of their use.
- Res. 415, A-04; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-14

Preventing Allergic Reactions in Food Service Establishments D-440.932

Our American Medical Association will pursue federal legislation requiring restaurants and food establishments to: (1) include a notice in menus reminding customers to let the staff know of any food allergies; (2) educate their staff regarding common food allergens and the need to remind customers to inform wait staff of any allergies; and (3) identify menu items which contain any of the major food allergens identified by the FDA (in the Food Allergen Labeling and Consumer Protection Act of 2004) and which allergens the menu item contains.

Res. 416, A-15

Over-the-Counter Inhalers in Asthma H-115.972

Our AMA will send a letter to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expressing: 1) our strong opposition to FDA making the decision to allow inhaled epinephrine to be sold as an over-the-counter medication without first soliciting public input; and 2) our opposition to the approval of over-the-counter sale of inhaled epinephrine as it is currently not a recommended treatment for asthma.

CSA Rep. 2, A-99; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-09; Modified: Res. 927, I-18; Reaffirmation: A-19