



Memo....ALERT

Date	September 17, 2009
To	Care Providers, Nurse Clinicians, Educators, Advanced Practice Nurses, Professional Practice Leaders, Directors and Coordinators
From	Karen Perkin, Director, Nursing Practice, MaryBeth Blokker Medication Safety Coordinator, Wendy Reed Director, Occupational
Copy	Medical Affairs/ Physicians, Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, Sandra Letton
Subject	Epi Pen Use...Alert

EPI PEN ®

There have been reported incidents of SJHC staff members inadvertently injecting themselves while administering epinephrine via Epi Pen ® to patients experiencing anaphylaxis.

Specifically, it appears that there is confusion about which end is the needle end.

The needle is ejected from the black end.

Do not put your thumb over the black end.

We are currently discussing design improvements with the manufacturer. In the meantime, we request that you review and/or advise all staff who are caring for patients with known allergies to do the following as soon as possible:

...Review the SJHC anaphylaxis protocol at [Protocol for Management of Anaphylaxis](#)

...Refresh your knowledge about the use of an EpiPen ®. See attached

...Seek medical attention immediately should you or a colleague inadvertently inject yourself and report the occurrence to leader and occupational health.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE

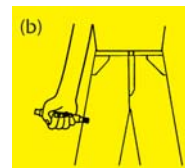
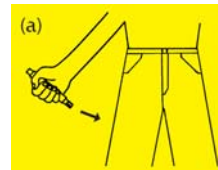
- **NEVER PUT THUMB, FINGERS, OR HAND OVER BLACK TIP.**
- **DO NOT REMOVE GRAY SAFETY RELEASE UNTIL READY TO USE.**
- **DO NOT USE IF SOLUTION IS DISCOLORED OR RED FLAG APPEARS IN CLEAR WINDOW.**
- **DO NOT PLACE PATIENT INSERT OR ANY OTHER FOREIGN OBJECTS IN CARRIER WITH AUTO-INJECTOR, AS THIS MAY PREVENT YOU FROM REMOVING THE AUTO-INJECTOR FOR USE.**



1. Unscrew the yellow or green cap off of the EpiPen[®] or EpiPen[®] Jr carrying case and remove the EpiPen[®] or EpiPen[®] Jr auto-injector from its storage tube.
2. Grasp unit with the black tip pointing downward.
3. Form fist around the unit (black tip down).
4. With your hand, pull off the gray safety release.



5. Hold black tip near outer thigh.
6. Swing and **jab firmly** into outer thigh until it clicks so that unit is perpendicular (at a 90° angle) to the thigh. (Auto-injector is designed to work through clothing.)
7. Hold **firmly against thigh** for approximately 10 seconds. (The injection is now complete. Window on auto-injector will show red.)



8. Remove unit from thigh and massage injection area for 10 seconds.
9. Call 911 and seek immediate medical attention
10. Carefully place the used auto-injector (without bending the needle), needle-end first, into the storage tube of the carrying case that provides built-in needle protection after use. Then screw the cap of the storage tube back on completely, and take it with you to the hospital emergency room.

Note: Most of the liquid (about 90%) stays in the auto-injector and cannot be reused. However, you have received the correct dose of the medication if the red flag appears in window.

WARNING

- **NEVER** put thumb, fingers, or hand over black tip. The needle comes out of black tip. Accidental injection into hands or feet may result in loss of blood flow to these areas. If this happens, go immediately to the nearest emergency room.
- EpiPen[®] and EpiPen[®] Jr should be injected only into the outer thigh.
- Do **NOT** remove gray safety release until ready to use.