# Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

Effective: 07/01/2016

## Introduction

Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction that occurs quickly and involves the entire body. Signs commonly include skin reactions such as hives, itching, flushed or pale skin, or a feeling of warmth. More threatening symptoms may include:

* a weak and rapid pulse;
* nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea;
* neck or throat swelling resulting in wheezing and trouble breathing.

If left untreated, a person may experience:

* seizures,
* irregular heartbeat,
* a decrease in blood pressure,
* respiratory distress,
* loss of consciousness,
* shock, and
* death.

The only rapidly effective emergency medical treatment for anaphylaxis is the administration of epinephrine through an auto-injector device.

As part of an overall risk assessment, many supervisors of University-related activities have determined that their emergency response plans would be significantly strengthened by having an epinephrine auto-injector readily available.

The University appreciates the importance of this precautionary measure and has developed this policy in order to ensure standardized management.

## Policy

University departments that choose to voluntarily acquire one or more prescription epinephrine auto-injectors for use by their operational units must comply with this policy.

## Scope

This policy provides oversight by establishing the standards and responsibilities for the procurement, maintenance, use, and renewal of prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector, hereafter referred to as a ‘device’.

## Definitions

### Epinephrine

A prescription medication used to treat anaphylaxis.

### Auto-injector

A medical device designed for easy use, typically a spring-loaded syringe, and intended to deliver a single dose of a drug.

### Operational Unit

A natural grouping of employees, as determined by the scope of work performed, that generally reports to a single supervisor.

### Responsible Person

Any person, authorized by their department, responsible for a single prescribed device. No single person may be prescribed more than one device.

### Trained User

Any person, not certified as a responsible person, expected to use a device in a medically necessary emergency situation. **Note:** Trained users may use any departmental device.

## State Regulations

According to the Oregon Revised Statutes ([ORS 433.805-830](http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/433.800)), a person who meets the prescribed qualifications may obtain a prescription for pre-measured doses of epinephrine. The epinephrine may be administered as a lifesaving treatment in an emergency situation to a person suffering from a severe allergic response when a licensed health care provider is not immediately available or other treatments have failed or cannot be initiated.

Additionally, [ORS 30.800](http://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/30.800) (Oregon Good Samaritan Act) provides that a person who in good faith renders emergency care and assistance, without compensation, shall not be responsible for civil damages for any acts of omissions during the provision of emergency care, except where gross negligence or reckless, wanton or intentional misconduct occurs.

## Responsibilities

### Department

* Covering the costs associated with obtaining the devices.
* Authorize a Responsible Person for each device that will be requested.
* Ensure that Trained Users complete the [Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction](https://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EMSTraumaSystems/Documents/Epinephrine%20Training%20Instructor%20Power%20Point%2012%202014.pdf) training.
* Ensure that device-equipped field kits are accompanied by at least one Trained User.

### Responsible Person

* **Required OHA Certification:** Complete the prescribed qualification training program as defined by the [Oregon Health Authority](https://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EMSTraumaSystems/Documents/epinephrine-training-protocol.pdf) (OHA). Certification is required at time of prescription request.
* You are strongly encouraged to obtain and maintain certification in First Aid / CPR.
* **Prescription Request:** Submit to the OSU Student Health Services pharmacy via the online [Auto-Injector Device Request Form](http://oregonstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emt3Q38ZcUuawsd) and attach proof of current OHA certification.
* If your primary location is not on the Main Campus, provide the Occupational Health Nurse with the expiration date upon delivery of the device.
* Administer and store the device per manufacturer's instructions.
* Return used or expired devices to the Occupational Health Nurse.
* Request prescription refills via the Auto-Injector Device Refill Request Form.

### Trained User

* **Required Training:** OHA [Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction](https://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EMSTraumaSystems/Documents/Epinephrine%20Training%20Instructor%20Power%20Point%2012%202014.pdf).
* You are strongly encouraged to obtain and maintain certification in First Aid / CPR.
* Administer and store the device per manufacturer's instructions.

### Student Health Services pharmacy

* Ensure device expiration dates are provided to the Occupational Health Nurse.
* If prescription must be faxed (e.g. Extension and Research), remind the Responsible Person to provide the expiration date to the Occupational Health Nurse once it’s been filled.

### Occupational Health Nurse

* Ensure device expiration dates are logged and monitored.
* Ensure proper disposal of returned devices.

### Occupational Medicine Physician

* Ensure all criteria are met prior to writing a device prescription.
* Ensure prescription is ‘for in office use: field detail.’