

Providing Medication

- Access required medication (as per action plan) and bring it to patient
- Measure required dose (as per action plan)
- Provide medication to casualty for self administering
- Assist casualty taking medication if required
- Identify and access the casualties Adrenaline Auto-Injector (prepare for conditioning worsening).
- Keep casualty calm
- Monitor the casualty for signs of change
- Confirm signs for Anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) and proceed when identified

Important information regarding administration of Adrenaline:

- Auto-injectors should always be checked before administering. You must check that:
 - The drug is adrenaline
 - The expiry date has not passed. However, if no other auto-injectors are available (not-expired), you should administer it
 - The adrenaline appearance is clear, and not cloudy or murky. Only use cloudy adrenaline if no other alternative is available
 - The dose is aligned to the action plan
- Always treat Anaphylaxis first, before any other condition. For example - if a casualty is suffering from Anaphylaxis and Asthma at the same time, treat the Anaphylaxis first. **Failure to do so may result in the casualties death.**
- Adrenaline is life saving and must be used promptly. Withholding or delaying the giving of adrenaline can result in deterioration and death . This is why giving the adrenaline autoinjector is the first instruction on the ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis. If cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is given before this step there is a risk that adrenaline is delayed or not given.
- A recent study linked approximately a quarter of deaths outside a hospital as occurring within seconds of moving a casualty to a more upright position.
- Hence ideally the casualty should be supine (laying flat) during the use of the EpiPen® and they should NOT be moved into an upright position – leave the casualty on their back with their legs elevated until the ambulance arrives (minimum 30 minutes)
- It is also important to note that ANY casualty who has required the use of an EpiPen® should ALWAYS be taken to hospital. This means even if their symptoms have improved, an ambulance should still be called if not already for further assessment. Adrenaline lasts for approximately 13-15 minutes, and although a second dose is rarely required, there should be medical attendance and assessment to ensure the casualty recovers satisfactorily.
- In the ambulance oxygen will usually be administered to the patient by paramedics.
- Medical observation of the patient in hospital for at least 4 hours is recommended after anaphylaxis.

Adrenaline autoinjectors available in Australia and New Zealand include EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. EpiPen Jr is generally prescribed for children aged 1 to 5 years