



WELLINGTON SCHOOL, AYR

MEDICAL PROTOCOL FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF EPIPEN

DR CRICHTON 17 SEPTEMBER 2008

Background

An "Epipen" is an easy to use, pre-filled syringe containing adrenaline that is administered by intramuscular injection, and is prescribed to people who have had severe allergic/anaphylactic reactions. Such reactions can be fatal if not treated immediately. Common allergens causing these symptoms are nuts, eggs, rubber, kiwi and strawberries.

Symptoms Requiring Administration of Epipen

Epipen should be administered immediately if any of the following arises:-

1. Collapse, clammy, fainting, difficulty finding pulse.
2. Wheezing, difficulty breathing, difficulty speaking due to breathing difficulties.
3. Swelling of the face and upper body that could result in an obstruction of the airways.

NB There is often but not always a history of the child having ingested/been in contact with the allergen.

Emergency Action if any of the above symptoms arise

1. Check airway is clear
2. Send messenger to get Epipen – never leave child alone
3. Administer Epipen immediately
4. Simultaneously send messenger firstly to dial 999 for ambulance (state urgent) and secondly to contact the child's parents.
5. Wait with the child until the ambulance arrives (If collapsed he/she should be in the recovery position; if breathing difficulties he/she should be sitting upright in an area with good ventilation.)
6. Record administration of Epipen (date and time) and send used Epipen with ambulance for information and disposal.
7. A second dose of Epipen can be administered after an interval of 5 minutes if there has been no improvement in his/her condition and help has not yet arrived i.e. ambulance

Guidelines for use of Epipen in School

1. Epipen should be administered by a trained, pre-designated member of staff.
2. Enough staff should be trained and willing to administer Epipen to ensure someone is available at all times including school trips.
3. Staff should receive regular updating on administration of Epipen.
4. Epipen should be kept in a well-marked box with the child's name and staff should be clear of its locality.

Parents' Responsibilities

1. It is the parents responsibility to ensure all Epipens kept at school are the correct dosage and within their expiry dates.
2. The parents must inform the school and school doctor of any relevant changes in their child's recommended use of Epipen.