

Prescribing tip for actioning by practice

Adrenaline Auto Injectors in Children

Headline Message

An up to date weight is always required. Care is needed with prescribing as the dose varies depending on brand of adrenaline auto injector issued and weight of child. Always refer to the SPC for the most up to date information.

[EpiPen Jr 0.15mg SPC](#) [Emerade 150mcg SPC](#) [Jext 150mcg SPC](#)

Indication

Adrenaline auto injectors (pens) are indicated in the emergency treatment of allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) to insect stings or bites, foods, drugs and other allergens as well as idiopathic or exercise induced anaphylaxis. Such reactions may occur within minutes after exposure so auto injectors should always be carried by such persons with a history or an acknowledged risk of an anaphylactic reaction.

The brand names of adrenaline auto-injectors currently available in the UK are **Emerade**, **EpiPen**, and **Jext**.

Dose according to Child's Weight

	Child < 15 kg	Child 15-30kg	Child >30kg	Adolescent > 30 kg
Emerade	A dosage below 150 micrograms cannot be administered with sufficient accuracy in children weighing less than 15 kg and use is therefore not recommended unless during a life-threatening situation and under medical advice.	150 mcg	300 mcg	Follow dose recommendations for adults

The effective dose is usually within the range 5 - 10 mcg/kg body weight but higher doses may be necessary in some cases

	Child < 15 kg	Child 15-30kg	Child >30kg	Adolescent > 30 kg
Jext	As per Emerade above	150 mcg	300 mcg	300 mcg

The effective dose is usually within the range of 5 -10mcg/kg body weight but higher doses may be necessary in some cases

	Child 7.5 – 25 kg	Child > 25kg
EpiPen Jr	0.15mg	0.3mg
For paediatric use, the appropriate dose may be 0.15 mg or 0.3 mg depending upon the body weight of the patient (0.01 mg/kg)		
The physician should consider using other forms of injectable adrenaline if lower doses are felt to be necessary for small children		

Prescribing Advice

- Under 'Optional Prescription Information' in the Patient Field **ADD**
 - **Weight required on each request** (if child) **AND**
 - **Check expiry date as out of date medication may no longer work effectively.**
- **Review strength according to weight received upon every repeat request especially >25kg**
- Adrenaline pens should be added as a **variable use repeat item**
- Prescribe a **minimum of 2** adrenaline pens (MHRA 2018) or more - consider school and/or second home where parents live apart
- Cover all medicines such as adrenaline pens in the annual medication review
- [Drug safety update for adrenaline auto injectors - recent action taken to support safety \(MHRA\)](#)
- [Advice for patients MHRA 2018](#)

To contact the Medicines Optimisation Team please phone 01772 214302