

Epipen National Shortage

CCHP is aware that there is a national shortage of Epipen (epinephrine auto-injector). The company that manufactures the product has told CCHP that the shortage should be fixed by October. Below are a number of updates on this important issue:



- What is Epipen, and what is it used for?
 - Epipen (epinephrine auto injector) is the brand name of a device that delivers epinephrine, a life-saving medication used when someone is experiencing a severe allergic reaction from things like insect stings (such as bees), insect bites, food, medication, or other allergens.
- If Epipen is unavailable, are there other medications that can be used instead?
 - Yes, there are currently 3 different epinephrine auto-injectors available on the market: Epipen, Adrenaclick, and Auvi-Q. CCHP will cover all 3 products during the shortage.
 - Although the 3 products may look very different (see picture to the right), they all deliver the same medication. Make sure to talk with your pharmacist when picking up your medication – they can train you on the proper way to use your auto-injector.



- What should I do if my current Epipen is about to expire?
 - **The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has extended the expiration date for many Epipen products - don't throw away any of your pens until you have talked with your pharmacist.** If you are unable to talk with your pharmacist, please call the CCHP pharmacy unit to see if your pen is actually expired.
- What should I do if I can't get an Epipen from my pharmacy?
 - Talk with your pharmacist to see if they are able to get one of the alternate version listed above for you. Or, you may call the CCHP pharmacy unit for help finding a pharmacy that is able to get you an epinephrine auto-injector.
- Who should I call with questions?
 - Please discuss this issue with your primary care doctor or pharmacist. Or, you can call CCHP and talk with our pharmacists or our advice nurses:

CCHP Pharmacy Unit: 925-957-7260 option 1 (Mon-Fri 8am-5pm)

CCHP Advice Nurse Line: 877-661-6230 (24 hours per day)