

EpiPen Administration

SOCP Outreach Nursing Department

EpiPen Administration

- This powerpoint program has been designed for the SOCP staff member who will be trained to administer an EpiPen in the event that a client has a life-threatening allergic reaction.

You may feel like this now...



But after this program, you'll feel like this...



Your objectives are:

- Accurately recognize client-specific warning signs of allergic emergency 
- Accurately identify client for whom epinephrine is prescribed 
- Accurately read and comprehend the client specific protocol for client specific allergy.
- Correctly follow directions on the client specific protocol 



Objectives continued...

- Accurately read the epinephrine (EpiPen) label and follow directions from the label
- Always check to make sure EpiPen is not expired
- Administer epinephrine by auto-injector 
- Safely handle epinephrine in auto-injector
- Accurately describe the client specific protocol for responding to life-threatening allergic emergencies



Epinephrine is the treatment of choice for allergic reactions...



Epinephrine...

- It quickly constricts blood vessels, raising blood pressure
- It relaxes smooth muscles in the lungs to improve breathing



Epinephrine continued...

- It stimulates the heart beat
- It works to reverse the hives and swelling around the face and lips



How is epinephrine stored?



- Stable at room temperature until the marked expiration date
 - Do not freeze, refrigerate, or expose to extreme heat or sunlight...it will cause it to oxidize and go bad..and turn brown.

How is epinephrine handled?

- Before using, make sure solution is clear and colorless
- Accidental injection into the hands or feet may result in loss of blood flow to the affected area and will require immediate treatment in the Emergency Department (ED)



How is epinephrine handled?

- After using epinephrine, the auto-injector should be placed back in the impermeable container and given to EMS personnel to take to the ED.



The 5 “RIGHTS” of epinephrine administration...

- Right client
- Right medication
- Right dose
- Right route
- Right time



Right client...



- Identify the client with the allergy.
 - Know the protocol
 - Let client know you are aware of his/her allergy
 - Explain to the client that you will assist him/her with an EpiPen in the event of an allergen exposure.
 - Always take the EpiPen and a back-up EpiPen with client on any outings, including the yard at the group home

Right medication...

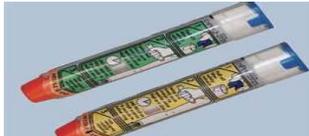
- Epinephrine is available in an auto injector called an EpiPen



The redesigned EpiPen Auto-Injector allows the consumer to see at a glance how to use the device in an emergency.

Right dose...

- An EpiPen comes in TWO different doses:
 - EpiPen 0.3 mg (over approx.66 lbs.) adult clients
 - EpiPen Jr. 0.15 mg (under approx 66 lbs.) child clients



Right route...

- The EpiPen is administered into the large outer thigh muscles



FIGURE 4

Right time...



- Based on client's symptoms and protocol

e.g., hives spreading over the body, wheezing, difficulty swallowing or breathing, swelling in face or neck, tingling or swelling of tongue, vomiting, signs of shock, such as extreme paleness/gray color, clammy skin, loss of consciousness, or any other client-specific known symptom.

Steps in EpiPen administration...

Breathe... Call for HELP! 911

- Have client lie down if possible
- Read and visualize the directions on the EpiPen
- It states:
 1. Form fist around autoinjector (orange tip down)
 2. With your other hand, pull off blue safety cap.
 3. Hold orange tip near outer thigh.
 4. Swing and **firmly push** into outer thigh until it clicks so unit is perpendicular (at 90 degree angle) to the thigh. *Note: Auto-injector is designed to work through clothing*
 5. Hold firmly in thigh for 10 seconds.

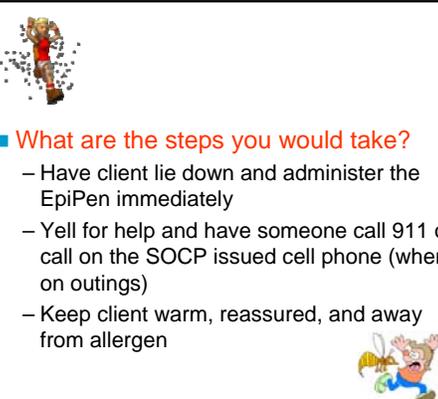
A quick review...

- Case study
 - You are the staff assigned to Sam Smith and you have just taken the client outside for a walk around the yard. Its spring and the flowers are blooming and the bees, unbeknownst to you, are buzzing. Your client, Sam Smith has a known bee allergy requiring immediate EpiPen administration if stung. You've made it a point, because you are an astute staff to review your client's Allergic Reaction Protocol and secure his EpiPen before going outside. The unthinkable happens...



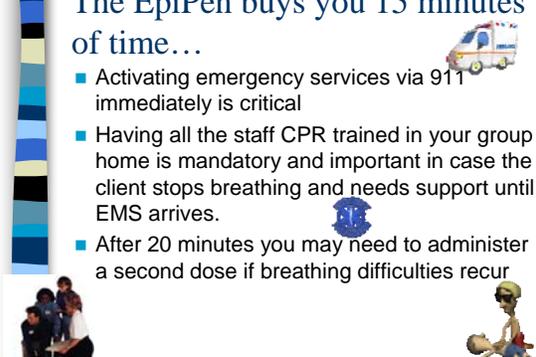
What are the steps you would take?

- Have client lie down and administer the EpiPen immediately
- Yell for help and have someone call 911 or call on the SOCP issued cell phone (when on outings)
- Keep client warm, reassured, and away from allergen



The EpiPen buys you 15 minutes of time...

- Activating emergency services via 911 immediately is critical
- Having all the staff CPR trained in your group home is mandatory and important in case the client stops breathing and needs support until EMS arrives.
- After 20 minutes you may need to administer a second dose if breathing difficulties recur



After EpiPen administration you must remember to...

- Notify the Site Manager, Outreach Nurse and PCP 
- If no response within 30 minutes call the Program Manager or Nurse Manager
- Document incident in the client specific progress notes and do an incident report.

Supervisor  **Manager**

What about Community Outings?

- Being the the ever-prepared staff you will review the Allergy Specific Protocol
- You will have the client's two Epipens; always carry the 2nd EpiPen as a spare but also in case you need to administer a 2nd dose
- Assure EpiPen is readily available for administering to the client throughout the trip. This includes in the vehicle, store, park or wherever the client and staff go on any outings.



Community Outings continued

- You must have telephone access to call 911 at all times while out of the group home with the client.



You are now prepared to administer an EpiPen in a life-threatening allergic emergency!



I thought I was done..."

One More Thing

- You must see a demonstration and then re-demonstrate the EpiPen by being evaluated by an outreach nurse



- This training is good for one year only and must be repeated annually in order to remain current and per SOCP policy and licensing requirement

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

- SOCP Outreach Nursing Staff:

