

15 October 2018

To all patients/users of Junior Epipen (shared through GPs)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

### **Junior Epipen® shortage**

As a parent or carer of a child with a severe allergy you might already know about a problem with the supply of Epipen Junior 150mcg which is expected to last several months. Experts in children's allergies have developed this advice to support you:

- It is important you continue to try and avoid the things your child is allergic to as much as possible.
- If your child has a severe allergic or anaphylactic reaction you must always give them their adrenaline pen straight away, call 999, as you would normally, and say you think your child has had a severe allergic reaction and that you have given them an adrenaline pen.
- If the adrenaline pen is out-of-date and you have not been able to get a new one you should **give the out of date pen, then call 999 as described above.**
- An out-of-date pen might give your child a lower dose of adrenaline but it is not dangerous and is better than no immediate treatment.
- During this shortage you might be given a device called Jext® or Emerade®.
  - This might say Epinephrine on it but it is exactly the same drug.
  - These pens work in a different way so you will need to read the instructions and/or watch a training video to learn how to use it.
  - Your GP, practice nurse or pharmacist can give you advice on your new pen and there is a list of websites at the end of this letter which have more information.
- If you have a pen which is in-date but a different brand you should use this instead of your Epipen,
- If your child weighs more than 25kg (4 stone), your GP should give them a 300mcg adrenaline pen when the pens you have expire. The pen might say it is for children who weigh more than 30kg but experts have said it can be used for children who weigh more than 25kg.

Finally, we know that you might not be able to get new adrenaline pens immediately when the ones you have expire. You should note that the expiry date of a pen is the final day of the month listed on the device eg for a November pen, the final date is 30 November.

When new stock does arrive, which we expect to happen in the next week, we will prioritise people who have out-of-date pens so please do not try and replace your pens until their date has expired.

Please be assured we are doing everything we can to get more supplies for the UK, as fast as possible.

Yours faithfully

**Dr Aidan Fowler**  
**National Director of Patient Safety**

Below are web links to the videos for other devices:

- EpiPen devices: <http://www.epipen.co.uk/patients/epipenr-user-guide>
- EpiPen Training video: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4289/rmms>
- EpiPen Junior Training Video:  
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/4290/rmms>
- Jext devices: <https://jext.co.uk/>
- Jext 150 Training Video: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5747/rmms>
- Jext 300 Training Video: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5748/rmms>
- Emerade devices: <https://www.emerade-bausch.co.uk/patient/how-to-use-emerade>
- Emerade 150 Training Video:  
<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5278/rmms>
- Emerade 300: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5280/rmms>
- Emerade 500: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/5279/rmms>