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| Program Document No.: 12018.00 | Subject: Epi-Pen Administration | | Type: Policy |
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| Signature of Director, EHS Provincial Programs: <i>original signed by Chris Nickerson</i> | | Signature of Manager, EHS MFR Services: <i>original signed by Phil Stewart</i> | |

1.0 Purpose:

1.1 To provide guidelines for the administration of epinephrine by Medical First Responders (MFRs) meeting approval by the Provincial Medical Director.

2.0 Definitions:

2.1 Anaphylaxis - A serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death. Typically causes a number of symptoms including itchy rash, swelling and low blood pressure. Common causes include insect bites and stings, foods and medications. The primary treatment is injection of epinephrine.

2.2 EMC- Emergency Medical Care

2.3 EHS- Emergency Health Services

2.4 Epinephrine- The drug form of a hormone that the body produces naturally and helps reverse a severe allergic reaction at the onset of the presentation

2.5 EpiPen® - The EpiPen® Auto-Injector is a disposable, pre-filled automatic injection device that administers epinephrine in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

2.6 FRCO- First Response Communications Officer

Informed Consent- Patient must be able to consent to the MFR assisting them with a procedure.

2.7 MFR- Medical First Responder

2.8 PCR- Patient Care Report

2.9 PMD- Provincial Medical Director

2.10 PPE- Personal Protective Equipment- e.g. gloves

2.11 SSP – System Status Plan

3.0 Policy:

3.1 The MFR shall confirm the signs and symptoms of Anaphylaxis (including but not limited to the following)

- Severe itching of eyes and face
- Face and tongue swelling
- Swallowing and breathing problems
- Abdominal pain and cramping
- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Angioedema (swelling beneath the skin instead of on the surface)

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- 3.2 The MFR shall take and record vital signs on the PCR. This shall include blood pressure, heart rate, respirations, quality of breathing, and general appearance (example swelling and redness). The MFR must also confirm the age of the patient- Patients must be over the age of 12 to receive epi.
- 3.3 All health care providers who have direct contact with the patient must thoroughly clean hands with EHS provided hand sanitizer and wear proper PPE.
- 3.4 **The patient has to confirm that they are not having chest pain and the patient must confirm that they have a severe allergy which constitutes the use of a EpiPen®.** The patient must be able to provide informed consent. Once consent is provided the MFR may **assist*** the patient if they are unable to properly administer the epi themselves by using the patient's own EpiPen® or the EpiPen® provided by EHS.
***Assisting** a casualty in the delivery of medication means the casualty already has the medication prescribed to them and as the First Aider you are assisting in the proper delivery of the medication based upon the need of the casualty.
- 3.5 Should epinephrine be delivered to the patient prior to the paramedic's arrival, the MFR agency will update the Medical Communications Center. The brief report to the MCC shall note that epinephrine was administered and the patient's status - post administration.
- 3.6 The MFR shall monitor and record vital signs once every 5 minutes, until the arrival of paramedics. The MFRs shall give a detailed report, ensuring the paramedics know that epinephrine was administered and the time of administration.
- 3.7 If the patient's condition does not improve, or deteriorates, a second dose of epi may be administered from the kit provided to the MFR agency containing 2 EpiPens®. The MCC must be contacted for approval prior to administration by the clinical support desk or online medical control physician.
- 3.8 The MFR agency shall document the following in the notes section of the PCR
- Signs and symptoms of the patient
 - Physical ability of patient to administer own epinephrine.
 - Time epinephrine administered by patient
 - Patient response to epinephrine
- 3.9 The PCR shall be sent to MFR services within 7 days of the incident for review.
- Storage of the Epi pen shall be as per the manufacturer's specification.
 - It shall be kept between 15 and 30 degrees Celsius and left in the provided case until ready for use. It shall be taken out of service if frozen.

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- It shall be checked on a weekly basis for expiry and damage. If damaged, an incident report will be filed with EHS MFR Services and the epi replaced.