Commercially Available Epinephrine Auto-Injectors Available with a Prescription in the United States

By Angela Nace, PharmD

Epinephrine auto-injectors remain the mainstay treatment for anaphylaxis. Several epinephrine auto-injectors are now available in the United States (including a generic version). Each contains the drug epinephrine, but each device has its own unique set of instructions for use. Understanding the differences is important to ensure that you get the device you want and you know how to properly use it.

The following chart summarizes the key facts and patient information pertaining to each of the currently available epinephrine auto-injectors. All listed auto-injectors are available in twin packs which contain two (2) pre-filled devices. Additional details, including patient instructional videos, are available at the manufacturers' websites.

Please be mindful of state and federal dispensing regulations that pharmacists must follow when filling your prescription for epinephrine.

It is important to note that there are many states in which the pharmacist is allowed to substitute a generic form of the prescription when indicated on the prescription and after receiving a verbal approval from the physician. If you or your physician prefer to receive a specific brand name of epinephrine auto-injector, your physician must indicate the brand name and “DAW” (dispense as written) or “do not substitute” on the prescription. This indication prohibits the pharmacist from dispensing a generic form of the prescription. Regardless, before you leave the pharmacy, make sure the pharmacy fills your prescription exactly as you and your child’s doctor expects.

Remember to speak to your child’s physician to determine which epinephrine product is best for your child. Since each device operates differently, make sure that you have been adequately trained to use the device that you leave the pharmacy with and review the training video for that device.

References:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name (website)</th>
<th>Available Strengths</th>
<th>Manufacturer</th>
<th>Generic available</th>
<th>Discount Program</th>
<th>Includes Trainer</th>
<th>Talking feature</th>
<th>Needle Exposed After Injection</th>
<th>Refill reminder feature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adrenaclick™</td>
<td>0.15 mg and 0.3 mg</td>
<td>Amedra Pharmaceuticals LLC</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auvi-Q™</td>
<td>0.15 mg and 0.3 mg</td>
<td>Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Email notices and an app for iPhones remind patients when their auto-injector expires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epinephrine Injection, USP auto-injector, the authorized generic (AG) of Adrenaclick™</td>
<td>0.15 mg and 0.3 mg</td>
<td>Distributed by Lineage Therapeutics</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr®</td>
<td>0.15 mg and 0.3 mg</td>
<td>Mylan Inc.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Patients can register on the product website for an email reminder when their medication will expire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a* Co-pay card provides maximum benefit of $25 per twin pack (can be redeemed an unlimited number of times until December 31, 2013)

*b* Training devices are available for free via web or telephone.

*c* Patients can receive up to $100 off of their co-pay or out-of-pocket expenses and is valid for an unlimited number of uses until December 31, 2013.

*d* Co-pay card provides maximum benefit of $100 per EpiPen® twin pack and can be redeemed an unlimited number of times until December 31, 2013.

* Epinephrine Injection, USP auto-injector is the authorized generic (AG) of Adrenaclick™.