

Training for the Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction In Oregon Schools

ORS 433.800-433.830 authorizes certain people to administer auto-injectable epinephrine (when a health care professional is not immediately available) to any person experiencing a severe allergic reaction. In response to ORS 433.800-433.830, the Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division has promulgated rules and developed the educational training protocol: “Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction: A Protocol for Training”.

1. Who are School Nurses training in the administration of epinephrine for the treatment of a severe allergic reaction?

Training may be provided to individuals 18 years of age or older who have, or reasonably expect to have, responsibility for or contact with at least one other person who may suffer from a severe allergic reaction (persons allergic to certain foods or insect stings). The most frequently trained school staff include school secretaries, administrators, teachers, coaches, and bus drivers.

2. Who is providing the training?

The School Nurse provides training in the school setting as delegated by a supervising professional. Current legislation is being considered to change the ‘delegation’ requirement to ‘assigned’. Some school districts receive training from a physician, nurse practitioner or EMT Paramedic allowed under OAR 333-055-0015(1).

3. Where can training materials be obtained?

The Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction: A Protocol for Training, as well as a PowerPoint presentation, is available at the following link:
<https://public.health.oregon.gov/ProviderPartnerResources/EMSTraumaSystems/Pages/epi-protocol-training.aspx>

4. How is it documented that an individual has completed training?

Persons who successfully complete the Treatment of Severe Allergic Reaction training in accordance with OAR 333-055-0000 through 333-055-0035 shall be given a statement of completion signed by the individual conducting the training. The statement may also be used to obtain a prescription for an emergency supply of epinephrine if signed by a physician or nurse practitioner with prescription writing authority.

5. How does an individual trained in the Treatment of Allergic Response obtain epinephrine?

An individual who has successfully completed educational training in the treatment of allergic response may receive an emergency supply of epinephrine from a local pharmacy *if the individual has a statement of completion signed by a prescriber (see #4 above.)* The individual presents the signed statement of completion to a pharmacist who will write a prescription in accordance with OAR 333-055-0030(2). The cost of the epinephrine must be borne by the trained individual unless other arrangements have been made.

6. Under what circumstances may a trained person administer epinephrine?

A person who holds a current statement of completion pursuant to OAR 333-055-0030 may administer, in an emergency situation when a licensed health care professional is not immediately available, epinephrine to any person suffering a severe allergic response to an insect sting or other allergen. The decision to give epinephrine should be based upon recognition of the signs of a systemic allergic reaction and need not be postponed for purposes of identifying the specific cause of the reaction.

7. How can concerns about liability be addressed?

ORS 433.830 describes the immunity of trained persons and institutions rendering emergency assistance in the treatment of allergic response with administration of epinephrine. No cause of action shall arise against a person who has successfully completed an educational training program described in ORS 433.815 for any act or omission of the person when acting in good faith while rendering emergency treatment pursuant to the authority granted by ORS 433.800 to 433.830, except where such conduct can be described as wanton misconduct. Similarly, no cause of action shall arise against an institution, facility, agency or organization when acting in good faith to allow for the rendering of emergency treatment pursuant to the authority granted by ORS 433.800 to 433.830, except where such conduct can be described as wanton misconduct.

8. What is the *EpiPen4Schools*® Program?

The *EpiPen4Schools*® program helps improve access to epinephrine in the event a person experiences a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) in the school setting.

The program offers:

- Four free EpiPen® (epinephrine injection, USP) or EpiPen Jr® (epinephrine injection, USP) Auto-Injectors for each school each calendar year.

9. What are the requirements of the *EpiPen4Schools*® program?

A valid prescription is necessary for the school district to qualify for the program.

ORS 433.825 Availability of doses of epinephrine, glucagon and medication that treats adrenal insufficiency to trained persons.

(b) An entity that employs a person described in paragraph (a) of this subsection may acquire premeasured doses of epinephrine and the necessary paraphernalia for administration in accordance with paragraph (c) of this subsection. A health care practitioner who has appropriate prescriptive privileges and is licensed under ORS chapter 677 or 678 may write a prescription for premeasured doses of epinephrine and the necessary paraphernalia in the name of an entity that employs a person described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.