



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

To: Community Pharmacists in Wales

cc. Health Board and Trust Chief Pharmacists

10 September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Adrenaline for anaphylaxis kits- a reminder for Community Pharmacists

You will be aware of a problem with the supply of Emerade® adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices and the need to conserve the AAI stock available from other suppliers for patients who truly need them.

Some pharmacies may be holding AAI devices in preference to adrenaline ampoules to treat anaphylactic reactions; this should not be necessary. Community pharmacists providing services where anaphylaxis treatment may be required, for example flu vaccination, should have the competency to draw up and administer adrenaline from ampoules with a normal syringe and needle.

When you renew adrenaline in your anaphylaxis kits, please ensure you stock ampoules (including dosing charts, needles and syringes) and not AAI devices. This will reduce demand for AAI devices and preserve the limited supplies available for patients and carers who, as lay persons, cannot be expected to administer adrenaline via a needle and syringe. Supplies of adrenaline ampoules are currently available and there is an expectation that community pharmacists should use these in preference to AAI devices.

The [Green Book](#) and [Resuscitation Council](#) guidance provides additional advice to healthcare professionals on the use of adrenaline in response to anaphylaxis. Pharmacists providing vaccination services may also wish to refer to [PSNC FAQs](#).

For any queries relating to this issue please e-mail Medicinesshortages@gov.wales

Yours sincerely

Anne Hinchliffe

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