

Medicines Optimisation Team

Prescribing Memo

Prescribing of alternative adrenaline auto-injector device Jext – implementation date 1st June 2013

Date: May 2013

Memo Number: 04/13

Main points

In collaboration with the regional group of Immunologists it was decided that a single adrenaline auto injector device should be chosen for the North East. A procurement process followed, managed by the North East Procurement Service and the contract was awarded to ALK-Abello UK Ltd who manufactures the Jext® brand of auto injector.

Historically only one Adrenaline Auto Injector has been available for patients who require such devices for severe allergy. Recently more brands have become available and the current EpiPen device is changing. This has led to concerns that patients and carers may receive different devices from those they are used to and without appropriate training their safety could be seriously compromised.

The change from EpiPen® to Jext® has been made because:

- Jext® has a longer shelf life from point of manufacture.
- Cost saving will be made as the replacement device will be issued less frequently due to the longer shelf life.
- Using one device across the North is safer and makes training easier.

ACTION REQUIRED*

- **For all new patients:** Prescribe Jext® instead of Epipen ® and ensure that the correct use of the auto-injector has been demonstrated to the patient.
- **For patients already carrying adrenaline auto-injectors:** Provide the patient with a Jext® device when their existing device needs replacing due to end of shelf life. These patients will be familiar with when to use the adrenaline auto-injector. Please take the opportunity to remind patients of when the adrenaline auto-injector should be used and how to use the Jext® device.
- **For all patients:** Please provide ALL patients a copy of the patient information leaflet, and use this as an opportunity to review the patient's condition and treatment with an adrenaline auto-injector device (especially the strength prescribed, the need for continued treatment and the patients knowledge about the use of the device).

***Please do not make this change until you have received the supporting pack (which includes a demonstration pen for rehearsing and patient literature) and accessed training sessions organised for this purpose.**

A supporting pack (including patient information leaflets, DVD and a training device) will be sent to all GP practices in the next two weeks. ALK-Abello will also be able to provide training within your practice.

Contact details

Shona Hawkins

Key Account Manager

North East England – Yorkshire

M 07917 631740

E shona.hawkins@alk-abello.com

This is a large educational project providing an opportunity to provide a refresher course to all concerned in the anaphylaxis management and use of the device.

Prescribing the same device across the region is helpful especially in the paediatric population. Uniformity of devices in schools which takes away uncertainty and confusion that could be created by keeping more than one variety of devices in nurses offices at schools, football clubs etc.

The community nursing services and the Local Education authority have both been advised of the change. The school nurses will have been offered the same training. Some hospital trusts in the North East will be supplying Jext® from April 1st 2013

Please contact your local Medicines Optimisation Team if you have any queries about this change. Thank you for your support in implementing this local recommendation.

For further information please check the Medicines Optimisation website

www.cddmedicinesmanagement.nhs.uk,

Email cd-pct.medicines@nhs.net, or telephone 0191 374 4121.