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| **Alert No: 34                                Date: 3 October 2018** **Updated: 21 November 2018**Updates highlighted in Red            EpiPen & EpiPen Junior (adrenaline auto-injector devices): Revised Supply Disruption**The Problem**EpiPen and EpiPen Junior will be subject to limited availability for the remainder of 2018. Mylan are now out of stock of EpiPen Junior and interruptions in the supply are anticipated to continue for the coming months. The department of Health and Social Care have issued a updated [national alert](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SDA-2018-001U.pdf)detailing more comprehensive information.**Key Actions:** For those who prescribe, dispense or administer adrenaline auto injectors or who advise patients and their carers: 1) Adult and child auto-injectors are only prescribed and dispensed to those who truly need them. Additional issuing in worry about shortages could exacerbate the overall supply situation. 2) Repeat prescriptions and supply are managed diligently and patients are advised of the following:    a) **Expiry validation:** an adrenaline auto-injector product expires on the last day of the month indicated e.g. a device labelled ‘April 2019’ does not expire until the end of April 2019.    b) **Extended expiry of certain batches:** Please see updated [national alert](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SDA-2018-001U.pdf)specifying batch numbers of the **adult** (300mcg) EpiPen which can be safely used for four months after the expiry date has passed. Where possible, prescribers should not prescribe a replacement adult EpiPen whilst the original is within the extended use by date.   c) Advise patients **not to dispose of their expired devices**until they have replaced them. If no new devices can be obtained parents / patients should be advised to use expired devices in an emergency as this is safer than not using them, it will not be dangerous but the potency of the adrenaline may have reduced. During clinical conversations with patients please stress that using an in-date device (if one can be supplied), even if not of the usual brand, is preferable to using an expired device.3) Some adults and children may need to switch from their usual Epipen device to other alternative adrenaline auto-injector devices that may be more readily available. The different brands of adrenaline auto-injectors are not used in exactly the same way and therefore specific training and advice is required for each of the devices.4) Junior adrenaline auto-injectors (150mcg) in all 3 brands – Epipen, Jext and Emerade - should be reserved for children weighing under 25 kg during this shortage period. Children weighing more than 25kg should be given adult auto-injectors (300 mcg) – see full updated [national alert](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SDA-2018-001U.pdf) for further information.5) Prescribers and pharmacists should work together to ensure patients who are switched to an alternative device are trained appropriately and understand how to use the new device. 6) Prescribers and pharmacies should regularly check the [Specialist Pharmacy Services](https://technology-trust-news.org/1TXQ-5W9VS-TVN2M9-3B7XDC-1/c.aspx) website for additional updates to supply and clinical guidance.7) A patient/parent letter about the EpiPen Junior shortage and relevant advice I available on the [Specialist Pharmacy Services](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SDA-2018-001U-Letter.pdf) website. GPs and Pharmacists should share this with patients/parents affected by this shortage.For more comprehensive information, please view the full updated [national alert](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/SDA-2018-001U.pdf).Documents uploaded separately on the ELFT intranet in conjunction with this clinical alert include the updated national alert and patient/parent letter.  |
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