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TO: Presidents, New Jersey Institutions of Higher Education

FROM: Rochelle Hendricks 
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SUBJECT: **Higher Education Epinephrine Emergency Treatment Act,**
P.L. 2013, c.211 (the Act) - Policy Guidelines

Introduction

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can have a rapid onset and be life threatening. Food allergies are the leading cause of anaphylaxis, particularly allergies to peanut and tree nuts. However insect stings, medications, and latex can also cause an allergic reaction that leads to anaphylaxis. (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, <http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/allergicdiseases/understanding/Pages/Anaphylaxis.aspx>)

New Jersey's institutions of higher education enroll students and attract faculty from around the country and around the world. They offer a broad array of educational opportunities for the students and faculty, both on and off campus, including trips and field studies to new environments that may expose them to different kinds of insects and foods for the first time. These are often remote settings where medical professionals or first responders are not available to provide emergency care for anaphylaxis.

The treatment of anaphylaxis is the timely administration of epinephrine, a medication only available via prescription. Individuals who are known to be at risk of anaphylaxis may carry emergency doses of epinephrine with them at all times. However, many individuals may not be aware of their allergy and therefore do not carry epinephrine medication.

In response to this concern, the New Jersey Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law the **Higher Education Epinephrine Emergency Treatment Act**, P.L. 2013, c.211 (the Act). This law gives all public and independent institutions of higher education in New Jersey the authority to develop a policy for the emergency administration of epinephrine to a member of the campus community for anaphylaxis when a medical professional is not available.

The Act provides that “no licensed campus medical professional, trained designee or physician providing a prescription under a standing protocol for epinephrine pursuant to this act, shall be held liable for any good faith act or omission committed in accordance with the provisions of this act. Good faith shall not include willful misconduct, gross negligence or recklessness.” N.J.S.A. 18A:61D-17.

These guidelines provide institutions of higher education in New Jersey with a framework for developing a policy regarding the emergency administration of epinephrine to members of the campus community under the Act. This includes the responsibilities of the institution of higher education, the licensed campus medical professional and the trained designee for the emergency administration of epinephrine.

Responsibilities of the Institution of Higher Education

The decision by an institution of higher education to adopt a policy permitting a trained designee to administer an emergency dose of epinephrine to a member of the campus community is voluntary. Once an institution decides to adopt such a policy, it is subject to these guidelines and the following responsibilities:

1. Adopt a policy for the emergency administration of epinephrine to treat anaphylaxis. The policy must:
 - a. Define the parameters of being a trained designee: who is eligible, how they will be trained, and the limits of their authority to administer epinephrine.
 - b. Identify the types of situations where a trained designee would be authorized to carry and administer epinephrine.
 - c. Identify the types of emergency situations that would require a trained designee to administer epinephrine.
 - d. Require that the administration of epinephrine to a member of the campus community by a trained designee must be via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism when a medical professional is not available.
2. Designate the licensed campus medical professional.
3. Educate the campus community about the policy.
4. Encourage qualified members of the campus community to become trained designees.

Responsibilities of the Licensed Campus Medical Professional

In accordance with the Act, the licensed campus medical professional is “a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, or registered nurse who is appropriately licensed by the State of New Jersey and is designated by an institution of higher education to oversee the institution’s epinephrine administration and training program.”

The licensed campus medical professional must:

1. Establish a standardized training protocol for the emergency administration of epinephrine by trained designees. This shall include:
 - a. The causes and symptoms of anaphylaxis;
 - b. The indications for when to use epinephrine;
 - c. How to administer the different types of pre-filled auto-injector mechanisms available on the market;
 - d. How to care for an individual after they have been administered a dose of epinephrine; and
 - e. How to safely store and carry epinephrine auto-injectors.
2. Ensure that trained designees meet statutory requirements and satisfactorily complete the training protocol prior to serving in that role, and each year they continue to serve in that role. Keep a record for each trained designee of the successful completion of their training and the expiration date for their certification.
3. Obtain and maintain an up-to-date supply of pre-filled epinephrine auto-injectors under a standing protocol from a licensed physician.
4. Manage the distribution to and recovery from trained designees of pre-filled epinephrine auto-injectors.
5. Maintain a record of each administration of epinephrine by trained designees, including the date, location, symptoms experienced by the member of the campus community, possible exposures to allergens, number of doses administered, and outcome.

Responsibilities of a Trained Designee

A trained designee is a member of the campus community trained in accordance with the protocols established by a licensed campus medical professional in the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism. Individuals who could become trained designees include: supervisors/responsible persons in charge of a research trip, athletic event or other off-site event sponsored by the institution of higher education where access to emergency medical care would be delayed.

Trained designees must:

1. Be qualified under the terms of the Act. This means they must:
 - a. Be 18 years of age or older;
 - b. Have, or reasonably expect to have, responsibility for at least one other member of the campus community as a result of the individual's occupational or volunteer status; and
 - c. Have satisfactorily completed a standardized training protocol established by a licensed campus medical professional in accordance with these guidelines.

2. Keep their training up to date, in accordance with the policy adopted by the institution of higher education.
3. Obtain, carry, administer and return epinephrine pre-filled auto-injector mechanisms in accordance with the policy adopted by the institution of higher education.
4. Provide any follow up care to the member of the campus community in accordance with the training protocol established by the licensed campus medical professional.
5. Report each administration of epinephrine to the campus medical professional, including the date, location, symptoms experienced by the member of the campus community, possible exposures to allergens, number of doses administered, and outcome.

The Act does not permit a trained designee to perform the duties or fill the position of a licensed medical professional.

The Act does not violate the Athletic Training Licensure Act, and therefore an athletic trainer may become a trained designee.

Definitions

Anaphylaxis: a serious allergic reaction that involves more than one organ system (for example, skin and respiratory tract and/or gastrointestinal tract), can begin very rapidly, and can cause death. (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, www.niaid.nih.gov)

Epinephrine: also known as adrenalin, epinephrine is a medication that can be used to counteract anaphylaxis. It is available by prescription only, including in auto-injector mechanisms that can be self-administered or administered by certain individuals.

Licensed campus medical professional: a physician, physician assistant, advanced practice nurse, or registered nurse who is appropriately licensed by the State of New Jersey and is designated by an institution of higher education to oversee the institution's epinephrine administration and training program.

Member of the campus community: an individual who is a student, faculty or staff member of an institution of higher education.

Trained designee: a member of the campus community, including athletic trainers, trained in accordance with a protocol established by a licensed campus medical professional in the emergency administration of epinephrine via a pre-filled auto-injector mechanism.

Resources

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases:

<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/topics/allergicdiseases/understanding/Pages/Anaphylaxis.aspx>

Food Allergy Research and Education (FARE): <http://www.foodallergy.org/anaphylaxis>

Resources for Colleges and Universities: <http://www.foodallergy.org/resources/colleges-universities>

Training Protocols for the Emergency Administration of Epinephrine, New Jersey Department of Education: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/services/epi.pdf>

New Jersey Guidelines for the Management of Life-Threatening Food Allergies in Schools: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/health/services/allergies.pdf>

How to C.A.R.E. for Students with Food Allergies: What Educators Should Know
<http://allergyready.com/>