

### Epinephrine Auto-injectors

There are several epinephrine auto-injectors on the market for the treatment of anaphylaxis. Though all of these devices deliver the same life-saving medication, they vary in terms of administration and delivery, coverage, and cost. This pearl offers a comparison of available products to assist providers in selecting products based on these and other factors.

### Which Epinephrine Product is Right for My Patient?

Factors to consider when selecting an auto-injector to prescribe:

Administration	Each device has a different delivery system, ensure proper education of patient and caregiver when initially prescribing or changing products
Risk for needle stick	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generic Adrenaclick: exposed needle post-injection</li> <li>• Symjepi: exposed needle post-injection</li> <li>• Mylan EpiPen (brand): automatic needle guard</li> <li>• Mylan generic epinephrine auto-injector: automatic needle guard</li> <li>• Teva's generic epinephrine auto-injector: automatic needle guard</li> <li>• Auvi-Q: retractable needle</li> </ul>
Trainer	Generic Adrenaclick is not dispensed with a trainer pen, you must contact the company to obtain one
Cost	The average cash price of <b>Auvi-Q is \$4900</b> , whereas the <b>generic epinephrine auto-injectors average ~\$300</b> cash price

See page 2 for a detailed comparison of available products.

### Epinephrine Value-Based Prescribing Messages:

1. **Consider writing prescriptions for "epinephrine auto-injector"** to allow the pharmacist to dispense the product that is covered and/or least expensive for the patient.
2. **Avoid the use of Auvi-Q;** it is significantly more expensive, less well-covered by insurances, and has no clinical benefit over generic epinephrine auto-injectors.

### A Note about the Nationwide Shortage

Beginning in 2018, Mylan reported manufacturing delays that led to shortages of brand-name EpiPen and its authorized generic. This delay continues to be a problem for Mylan, and although they are now shipping products to wholesalers, supply is limited and varies from pharmacy to pharmacy. Of note, Impax laboratories is also currently experiencing manufacturing delays, which may result in a shortage of their generic Adrenaclick at pharmacies as well.

**Teva's epinephrine auto-injector is not in shortage, and patients should be able to fill this at their pharmacy without issue.**

## Epinephrine Products for Anaphylaxis

**Consider writing prescriptions for “epinephrine auto-injector” to allow the pharmacist to substitute the product that is covered and least expensive for the patient**  
**Avoid the use of Auvi-Q; it is significantly more expensive, less well-covered by insurances, and has no clinical benefit over generic epinephrine auto-injectors**

	EpiPen & EpiPen Jr.	Epinephrine injection, USP auto-injector	Epinephrine auto-injector	Epinephrine injection, USP auto-injector	Auvi-Q	Symjepi prefilled syringe
						
<b>Brand or Generic</b>	Brand	Authorized generic for EpiPen and EpiPen Jr.	AB-rated generic for EpiPen and EpiPen Jr.	Authorized generic for Adrenallick (brand no longer available)	Brand	Brand
<b>Manufacturer</b>	Mylan	Mylan	Teva	Impax	Kaleo	Adamis
<b>Available strengths</b>	0.15 mg, 0.3 mg	0.15 mg, 0.3 mg	0.15 mg, 0.3 mg	0.15 mg, 0.3 mg	0.1 mg, 0.15 mg, 0.3 mg	0.3 mg
<b>Administration</b>	Hold in place for 3 seconds after injection	Hold in place for 3 seconds after injection	Hold in place for 3 seconds after injection	Hold in place for 10 seconds after injection	Hold in place for 2 seconds after injection	Hold in place for 2 seconds after injection <i>Not an auto-injector, must inject</i>
<b>Exposed needle?</b>	No- orange cap covers needle after injection	No- orange cap covers needle after injection	No- orange cap covers needle after injection	Yes- return to case after use, needle first	No- needle retracts into device after use	Yes- utilize safety guard after use
<b>Cost*</b>	\$610	\$300	\$300	\$395	\$4900	\$250
<b>Insurance Coverage#</b>	Excellus commercial: tier 2 Excellus BCO: not covered Excellus CHP: tier 2 MVP comm/CHP: tier 2 MVP Medicaid: tier 2	Excellus commercial: tier 1 Excellus BCO: generic copay Excellus CHP: tier 1 MVP comm/CHP: tier 1 MVP Medicaid: tier 1	Excellus commercial: tier 1 Excellus BCO: generic copay Excellus CHP: tier 1 MVP comm/CHP: tier 1 MVP Medicaid: tier 1	Excellus commercial: tier 1 Excellus BCO: generic copay Excellus CHP: tier 1 MVP comm/CHP: tier 1 MVP Medicaid: tier 1	Excellus commercial: tier 3 Excellus BCO: brand copay Excellus CHP: tier 2 MVP comm/CHP: not covered MVP Medicaid: not covered	Has not been launched at pharmacies yet, not included on formularies at this time
<b>Patient Assistance Programs</b>	<b>Coupon card:</b> up to \$300 off a 2-pack (commercial insurance only) <b>Mylan Patient Assistance Program:</b> \$0 if uninsured or commercially insured and meet income requirements	<b>Coupon card:</b> up to \$25 off a 2-pack (commercial insurance only)	<b>Coupon card:</b> up to \$30 off a 2-pack (commercial insurance only)	<b>Coupon card:</b> up to \$25 off a 2-pack (commercial insurance or cash-paying patients)	<b>Direct Delivery Service:</b> \$0 when delivered to home or filled at Walgreens (commercial insurance only) <b>Kaleo Cares Program:</b> \$0 if uninsured and household income of <\$100,000/year	N/A
<b>Patient Instructions</b>	<a href="#">EpiPen- how to use</a>	<a href="#">Mylan Generic Epinephrine Auto-Injector- how to use</a>	<a href="#">Teva Generic Epinephrine Auto-Injector- how to use</a>	<a href="#">Generic Adrenallick Auto-Injector- how to use</a>	<a href="#">Auvi-Q- how to use</a>	<a href="#">Symjepi- how to use</a>

\*Prices based on wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) and will vary based on patient’s insurance coverage and pharmacy used

#Insurance coverage based on Excellus and MVP formularies as of May 2019, coverage and copay subject to change