



## Guidance for an Anaphylaxis Epinephrine Auto-Injector Protocol in a School Setting

### Why is an anaphylaxis protocol necessary? Why not standing orders?

The use of protocols or standing orders is widely misunderstood in public health and school nursing. Some school health programs have been using "standing orders" for years -- but standing orders are patient-specific, and the use of stock epinephrine auto-injectors for anaphylaxis emergency is not for a specific student but any student or who is experiencing signs or symptoms of anaphylaxis.

The fact is that patient-specific orders are not an efficient mechanism for Registered Nurses (RN) or Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) in schools to provide emergency medication for a population of people who may experience a life-threatening allergic reaction with no legal prescriber on site. Nurses in schools need another mechanism to do this. That mechanism was added to the Minnesota Nursing Practice Law in 1995. It is called "prescription by protocol." [Minnesota statute section 148.235, Subd. \(8\)](#). This allows RNs to implement a protocol that results in a prescription of legend (prescription) drugs for administration, including epinephrine auto-injectors, based on conditions (as opposed to being based on specific patients).

Effective July 1, 2024

[MN Statute 121A.2207](#) Life-Threatening Allergies in Schools: Stock Supply of Epinephrine Auto-Injectors states ""(b) Registered **nurses** may administer epinephrine auto-injectors in a school setting according to a condition-specific protocol as authorized under section 148.235, subdivision 8. Notwithstanding any limitation in sections 148.171 to 148.285, **licensed practical nurses** may administer epinephrine auto-injectors in a school setting according to a condition-specific protocol that does not reference a specific patient and that specifies the circumstances under which the epinephrine auto-injector is to be administered, when caring for a patient whose condition falls within the protocol.

The [Minnesota Board of Nursing](#), on their website explains this law. The Board of Nursing is responsible for interpreting the nursing law -- not the Minnesota Department of Health. It is in the best interest of nurses to work toward compliance with the nurse practice act.

Do protocols need to be re-signed annually?

Legally, no. There is no law requiring that these protocols be re-signed annually by the licensed medical prescriber. However, the Minnesota Board of Nursing suggests, as a standard of practice, that they be reviewed, updated if necessary, and re- signed annually.

The following table describes each element of anaphylaxis protocol template and steps needed to create or adapt a protocol for use by nurses in schools.

Definitions	Steps to take to adopt protocols
<p><b>Condition-specific protocol:</b> The condition for which requires emergency medication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has already been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Criteria:</b> The parameters/boundaries by which the RN /LPN can proceed to administer epinephrine, based on the screening and assessment. Criteria are organized by indications, contraindications, and precautions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ A licensed prescriber must review the criteria and actions and determine the appropriate action to be prescribed for the specific school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indications:</b> Persons or groups that are or are not included to receive epinephrine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ Make sure all the indications for which you will administer epinephrine auto-injectors are included in the protocols.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Contraindications:</b> Most standard contraindications found in the <a href="#">Drugs@FDA:FDA-Approved Drugs</a> database. <i>Search for the specific epinephrine auto-injector your district will have.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific contraindications for your school setting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Precautions:</b> Conditions that the RN/LPN should be aware of related to anaphylaxis and the administration of epinephrine.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific precautions for your school setting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Actions prescribed:</b> Instructions for the RN/LPN when the person meets or does not meet the criteria. Those listed in the template are suggested actions that might be typical.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ Review this section to determine if you have any specific actions for your school setting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prescription:</b> Must be a pre-determined prescription and include all the elements that any prescription would require.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ This has been included in the anaphylaxis template.</li> <li>✓ Verify that these elements are included in protocol prescriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The name of the drug</li> <li>○ The dosage of the drug</li> <li>○ The route of administration</li> <li>○ The timing (schedule) of the drug</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Any special instructions that apply to the drug</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medical emergency</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Anaphylaxis and the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors are a medical emergency. 911 must be called and the person transferred to a higher level of care.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Questions or concerns</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fill in the contact information for your medical director (prescriber) or designee.</li> </ul>

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<b>Signature</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fill in the name of prescriber.</li> <li>✓ Have the licensed medical prescriber sign and date the epinephrine protocol.</li> </ul>
<b>Formatting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ You can customize to add your own headers and footers.</li> <li>✓ You can customize to add your School Name or Logo.</li> <li>✓ You need to add your document review dates.</li> <li>✓ Once completed you should delete the paragraph in #3.</li> <li>✓ You must complete #4 with your medical prescriber.</li> <li>✓ You must complete #6.</li> <li>✓ To remove the “Sample Protocol” watermark on the protocol template: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Go to Design and click on Watermark and then click on Remove Watermark.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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