

Dear Sir/Madam,

Shortage of EpiPen® Junior Auto-injectors

We have been advised by Mylan NZ that the supply of EpiPen® Junior 150mcg adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injectors has been delayed. This means that there is a shortage of EpiPen® Jr in New Zealand.

This shortage affects the supply of EpiPen® auto-injectors for children weighing between 7.5 and 20kg. Most are aged between two and four years. Until the regular supply resumes, the EpiPen® Jr auto-injectors will not be available through the FundaPen™ initiative. However, there is still a regular supply of EpiPen® 300mcg adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injectors for children and adults weighing over 20kg. These are available through the FundaPen™ initiative to those who meet the criteria (below).

Further information on the EpiPen® Jr auto-injector shortage and prescribing EpiPens is available at:

<https://www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/info-updates/epipen-jr-supply-update>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have supported FundaPen™ and assisted us to provide free EpiPen® auto-injectors to children with severe allergies from low income families. FundaPen™ has received an overwhelming level of support. Articles were published and broadcast across all major media outlets and the post on our Allergy NZ Facebook page attracted more than 13,000 engagements.

As well as reaching families in need of FundaPen™, we see the high level of interest in this initiative and the large number of personal anecdotes that have been shared, as evidence of just how much New Zealanders need affordable access to this medicine.

What's next?

As you know, EpiPens are not publicly funded by PHARMAC and they have been on the waiting list for funding longer than any other current medicine. At a cost of between \$120 and \$350 each year, this potentially life-saving medicine is unaffordable for many New Zealand families. The donation from Pub Charity has meant that 2500 children will receive a free EpiPen® auto-injector over the next year but this is a short-term solution to an ongoing issue.

We will be keeping you up-to-date with the hugely positive impact we are achieving with the FundaPen™ initiative. It is vital that all prescribing authorities for adrenaline auto-injectors are on the same page, demanding our Government/PHARMAC's immediate review of the funding priority for EpiPen® auto-injectors.

To all the doctors, nurses, PHOs and healthcare professionals who are early supporters of FundaPen™ and its worthy recipients – THANK YOU! As the funding for FundaPen™ runs out, we will need your voice to join ours for a 'call to action' for our Government and Pharmac to fund EpiPens.

Allergy New Zealand and Pub Charity are not the appropriate long-term funders of an emergency medicine for NZ's first world health aspirations!

Kind regards,

Mark Dixon
CEO Allergy NZ

FUNDAPEN™ Key Facts

- EpiPen® auto-injectors are available through the FundaPen™ initiative from Monday 11 November 2019.
- 1 FREE EpiPen® per eligible patient.
- To obtain a FREE EpiPen® auto-injector, families will need to visit their family doctor.
- The exclusive distributor is AllergyPharmacy.co.nz
- Every patient eligible for this offer needs to be doctor-diagnosed with an allergy that puts them at risk of anaphylaxis.
- Each recipient needs to receive an Action Plan and education in the use of the EpiPen® and how to manage their allergy to avoid anaphylaxis.
- AllergyPharmacy.co.nz will dispense each EpiPen® back to the GP who prescribed it under the FundaPen™ programme, NOT direct to the patient as they would normally.
- We are able to fund 2,500 EpiPen® auto-injectors under this initiative. Because of the challenges of access, this initiative is specifically targeted at children between the ages of 2 and 18 years who are Māori, Pasifika, live in a quintile 5 region or hold a Community Services Card.