



**To the CEOs
Of all PHOs
New Zealand**

12th February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: FREE patient EpiPen® via Allergy New Zealand FundaPen™ UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

Allergy New Zealand and Pub Charity joined forces in 2019 to make 2,500 free EpiPen® auto-injector pens available to vulnerable children, who have a doctor-diagnosed allergy and are at risk of anaphylaxis.

We are now in a position to offer the remaining Free EpiPen® auto-injector pens to **ANY** New Zealander who has a doctor-diagnosed allergy and is at risk of anaphylaxis **while funded stocks last.**

This letter is to invite your Primary Health Organisation (PHO) to share this FundaPen Update with your GP members as soon as possible so that their allergy patients can benefit from this initiative.

Our collaboration with Pub Charity, follows eight attempts in the last 15 years to have EpiPen® auto-injectors publicly funded through PHARMAC's prescribed processes. Its aim has been to benefit people at risk of anaphylaxis, who need an EpiPen® as per prescribing guidelines.

Because of the fixed amount of funding available the remaining allocation will be on a 'first-come, first-served basis'. Allergy NZ will continue to seek funding to provide a continuation of the FundaPen™ initiative for 2020/21.

The \$300,000 Pub Charity Donation is strictly for the purchase of as many EpiPen® auto-injectors as possible from Allergy Pharmacy, who in turn purchase them from Mylan NZ Ltd. Allergy New Zealand do not receive any financial benefit from this donation.

We are very grateful to Pub Charity for making this initiative possible.

Allergy NZ is a 35-year old national charity that aims to improve the quality of life for New Zealanders living with allergies. We do this by providing evidence-based information and support to people whose lives are affected by allergies.

FUNDAPEN™ UPDATE

Key Facts

- FREE EpiPen® auto-injectors will be available through the FundaPen™ initiative on an unrestricted basis to eligible patients from **Monday 24 February, 2020.**
- Eligible patient = **ANY** allergy patient doctor-diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis and needing an EpiPen® as per prescribing guidelines
- 1 EpiPen® per eligible patient.
- The exclusive distributor is AllergyPharmacy.co.nz.

CONDITIONS

1. Patients eligible for this offer, need to be doctor-diagnosed with an allergy that puts them at risk of anaphylaxis, and needing an EpiPen® as per prescribing guidelines.
2. Each recipient needs to receive training and education in the use of the EpiPen® and management of their allergy to avoid anaphylaxis.
3. Each EpiPen® prescribed under this initiative needs to be supplied at a fixed cost to Allergy New Zealand. That is, single point of distribution = single pharmacy.
4. Only one FREE EpiPen® is available per eligible patient.

PLEASE NOTE: AllergyPharmacy.co.nz will dispense each EpiPen® BACK TO THE GP who prescribed it under this FundaPen™ programme, NOT directly to the patient.

Your 'local' Pharmacy cannot fulfil the prescription!

THE PROCESS

1. The GP establishes that the patient is clinically eligible for FundaPen™
2. The GP completes the patient's prescription for an EpiPen® as usual.
3. Please clearly write "FundaPen" on the prescription facsimile, or in the subject line of your emailed prescription to ensure we can demonstrate the impact of this initiative. Please note emailed prescriptions should be sent to info@queenstownpharmacy.co.nz
4. Please **include the patient's weight** on the prescription so that the correct EpiPen® is dispensed. (As per ASCIA guidelines more than 20kg qualifies the patient for an Adult EpiPen® auto-injector regardless of age).
5. Please Fax the completed prescription to Allergy Pharmacy: **03-441-0591**.
6. Or Email the completed prescription to Allergy Pharmacy:
info@queenstownpharmacy.co.nz
7. Please post a hard copy of the prescription to Allergy Pharmacy, PO Box 157, Queenstown.
8. AllergyPharmacy assesses that the prescription meets the FundaPen™ qualification criteria and dispenses the EpiPen® **to the prescribing GP*** (3 day delivery time is normal).
9. GP receives the EpiPen® and contacts the patient to return for training and dispensing.
10. Your patient receives training, their EpiPen® and allergy collateral from your practice.

*We note that some patients will find a second appointment to pick up their FundaPen™ challenging. However, the dispensing pharmacy is required to ensure adequate training and education regarding EpiPen® management is provided to the patient.

IMPORTANT

- It is the goal of Allergy NZ and Pub Charity to ensure as many eligible patients as possible benefit from the FundaPen™ initiative as long as the fully funded stock lasts.
 - Once all the fully-funded FREE EpiPen® auto-injector pens have been dispensed from Allergy Pharmacy under the FundaPen™ initiative, regular prescribing protocols, distribution and fees will apply.
 - Allergy NZ will be seeking to source funding to continue FundaPen™ on an ongoing basis.
 - We invite your PHO to make your members aware of the FundaPen™ initiative as soon as possible.
-
- Allergy New Zealand will be updating the media and allergy community about the widened availability of FREE EpiPen® auto-injectors under this national FundaPen™ initiative from **Monday 24 February 2020**.

ACT NOW

1. Please forward this email to your members as soon as possible.
From recent experience, we know that our members will approach their local GP as soon as they are aware of this FundaPen™ UPDATE.
2. Allergy New Zealand does not have the resource or access capability to inform your members directly.
3. This is a genuine opportunity for allergy patients in your region, but we need your support to deliver the benefit to them.
4. Your participation in the FundaPen™ initiative and speed of communication of this UPDATE to your members will determine whether your patients benefit.
5. There is no guarantee the FundaPen™ initiative can be continued. It is dependent on third party funding.

The FundaPen™ initiative can deliver tangible positive changes to the lives of the many individuals and families living with the risk of anaphylaxis in New Zealand.

Your active participation is critical to delivering this support to patients in your region.

Yours sincerely



Mark Dixon

CEO

ceo@allergy.org.nz