



**All PHO Chief Executives**

21 December 2021

**Kia ora Koutou katoa,**

**Re: Free EpiPen® auto-injectors available from 9 February through Allergy NZ's FundaPen2 initiative**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Allergy New Zealand and Pub Charity have once again joined forces to make free EpiPen® auto-injectors available for New Zealanders, who have a doctor-diagnosed allergy and are at risk of anaphylaxis.

The initiative is a result of overwhelming demand from Aotearoa's allergy community for us to repeat our successful 2019 FundaPen campaign.

This letter is to invite your Primary Health Organisation (PHO) to take up this opportunity and make your GP members aware of the 3,355 free EpiPen® auto-injectors that will be available to patients with severe allergies from Wednesday 9 February.

Allergy NZ has been improving the quality of life of New Zealanders living with allergies for more than 40 years. We do this by providing evidence-based information and support to people whose lives are affected by allergies. We receive no Government funding.

Our collaboration with Pub Charity, follows eight attempts in the last 17 years to have EpiPen® auto-injectors publicly funded through PHARMAC. The donation allows us to address a significant need for New Zealanders at risk of anaphylaxis, whose families/whānau struggle to buy an EpiPen®.

Pub Charity have donated \$350,000 to Allergy New Zealand for the purchase of 3,355 EpiPen® auto-injectors from Queenstown Pharmacy, who will source them from the NZ supplier, Viatrix Ltd. Allergy New Zealand will not receive any financial benefit from the Pub Charity donation.

Qualifying patients will be eligible for **FundaPen2** from Wednesday 9 February 2022 until supplies run out.

# FUNDAPEN 2 Protocol

## THE FACTS

- EpiPen® auto-injectors are available through the FundaPen2 initiative from **Wednesday 9 February, 2022.**
- Target = prescriber-diagnosed allergy patients at risk of anaphylaxis as at 9 February 2022.
- 1 EpiPen® per eligible patient.
- The exclusive distributor is Queenstown Pharmacy (online = [www.AllergyPharmacy.co.nz](http://www.AllergyPharmacy.co.nz))

## CONDITIONS

1. Every patient eligible for this offer needs to be prescriber-diagnosed with an allergy condition that puts them at risk of anaphylaxis.
2. Each recipient needs to receive training and education in the use of the EpiPen®, and management of their allergy to avoid anaphylaxis, from their prescriber.
3. Each EpiPen® prescribed under this initiative will be supplied at a fixed cost to Allergy New Zealand by using a single point of distribution – Queenstown Pharmacy
4. Only one FREE EpiPen® is available per eligible patient.

**Each prescribed EpiPen® will be dispensed directly to your patient's postal address.**

## PROCESS

1. Establish that your patient is clinically eligible for FundaPen2.
2. Complete your patient's prescription for an EpiPen® as usual.
3. Add the word "**FundaPen2**" clearly on the prescription.
4. Include your **patient's weight** on the prescription so that the correct EpiPen® is dispensed. To determine correct dose please reference ASCIA guidelines - [https://allergy.org.au/images/ASCIA\\_HP\\_Guidelines\\_Acute\\_Management\\_Anaphylaxis\\_2021.pdf](https://allergy.org.au/images/ASCIA_HP_Guidelines_Acute_Management_Anaphylaxis_2021.pdf)
5. Please email the completed prescription to : [info@queenstownpharmacy.co.nz](mailto:info@queenstownpharmacy.co.nz)
6. Queenstown Pharmacy assesses that the prescription meets the FundaPen2 eligibility criteria and dispenses the EpiPen® to the patient's address provided by the prescriber.
7. **Please check your patient's postal address is accurate** - 10 day delivery time is normal

## IMPORTANT

- It is the goal of Allergy NZ and Pub Charity to ensure as many eligible patients as possible benefit from the FundaPen2 initiative.
- Once 3,355 FREE EpiPen® auto-injector pens have been dispensed from Queenstown Pharmacy, normal prescribing protocols, distribution and fees will apply.
- We invite your PHO to make your members aware of the FundaPen2 initiative as soon as possible.
- Allergy New Zealand will be distributing a media release about the availability of FREE EpiPen® auto-injectors under this national FundaPen2 initiative on **Tuesday 8 February 2022.**

Please respond now by forwarding this document to your members in full, or by providing the “FundaPen2 Protocol” to them (Page 2 of this invitation).

We are confident the FundaPen2 initiative will deliver considerable benefits for many people with allergies and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our New Zealand allergy community.

*Please note that this information has a media embargo until our Fundapen2 media release is distributed on Tuesday 8 February 2022.*

**Ngā mihi nui**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Dixon', with a stylized flourish above the name.

**Mark Dixon**

**CEO**

[ceo@allergy.org.nz](mailto:ceo@allergy.org.nz)