Dear Colleagues,

Please refer to the recently updated PPL Guideline 2.60.23 First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis in relation to holding asthma relieving inhalers and epipens in workplace first aid kits.

**Salbutamol inhalers in workplace first aid kits**

A person who has completed an asthma management course approved by the Department of Health is authorised to purchase S3 salbutamol or S3 terbutaline (blue/grey reliever medication) for use in asthma first aid. This medication does not need to be purchased for a specific individual, does not require labelling or counselling and can therefore be used as an emergency reliever medication at a school, workplace or community event.

*Reference - Health (Drugs and Poisons) regulation - section 256B*

**EpiPens in workplace first aid kits**

Holding an epiPen in the first aid kit is subject to a risk assessment for the workplace. Low risk workplaces do not normally require epiPens in first aid kits for the following reasons:

- Persons with a history of anaphylaxis are expected to carry an epiPen for personal use.
- UQ security have access to epiPens if required or if a second dose is required whilst waiting for emergency services.
- Health Services are available on site at St Lucia and Gatton campus during office hours.
- Adrenaline auto-injectors have a short shelf life (1-2 years depending how long the pharmacist has it on shelf).

EpiPens cannot be kept in workplace first aid kits without approval from Queensland Health (through the Medicines Regulation and Quality Unit). There is an approval process to complete once the FA Officer has undergone relevant training. Applicants are individually approved and must hold a current qualification in a course in First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis. This should be a current qualification and a certified copy must be provided.

You can review the full Health (Drugs & Poisons) Regulation, 1996 at this website: [https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/legisltn/current/H/HealDrAPOR96.pdf](https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/legisltn/current/H/HealDrAPOR96.pdf)

Please contact the OHNA for assistance if you require an approval for holding an epiPen in a workplace first aid kit.

EpiPens for workplace first aid kits cannot be obtained from a retail pharmacist unless the pharmacist holds a wholesale licence and has been provided with a purchase order. Please contact the OHNA if you need to purchase or renew a workplace first aid kit epiPen.

Kind Regards,

Fiona Coulthard, OHNA, Health Safety and Wellness |