



MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2018

TO: Practising and Non-Practising Members

FROM: Jeana Wendel, Registrar
Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals

RE: **UPDATE: EpiPen Shortage Update – Addition of Auvi-Q Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**

UPDATE: Pfizer and Health Canada sent out communications regarding a potential labelling issue that might prevent EpiPens from sliding out of their cases properly. They aren't recalling the product, so as not to exacerbate the shortage, but rather are asking pharmacists to **check each device prior to dispensing** and return those that do not slide out of their case properly.

The following is unchanged from the September 4, 2018, memo from the College:

Health Canada has issued an Interim Order allowing the importation of Auvi-Q epinephrine auto-injectors from the United States for an initial period of two weeks to help mitigate the EpiPen Shortage.

The following is important information for pharmacists:

Auvi-Q is expected to be available for pharmacies to order from McKesson by the end of the week and in pharmacies as of September 7th, 2018.

Health Canada has issued the following temporary product identification numbers (like a pseudo-DIN) that can be used for these products:

Auvi-Q 0.15 mg – 02480360
Auvi-Q 0.3 mg – 02480379

Auvi-Q should be considered **Schedule II** under the National Drug Schedule.

Pharmacists are **required** to provide the [Health Canada Patient Information leaflet](#) when selling Auvi-Q. **It cannot be sold unless it is accompanied by the information leaflet.**

Auvi-Q comes in a box with 2 auto-injectors plus a trainer. Health Canada is allowing pharmacists to open the box and dispense single Auvi-Q auto-injectors to each patient along with the Health Canada Patient Instructions for Use Leaflet (found in the patient information leaflet).



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Pharmacists should continue to conserve the supply of EpiPen and Auvi-Q. Epinephrine ampoules have been temporarily changed to schedule II and are available as an option for pharmacists to be dispensed in kits if required.

Any questions regarding the availability of Auvi-Q should be directed to McKesson, as they are the Canadian importer of this product.

The following are links to Health Canada's communications relating to the interim order:

News Release – Health Minister announces access to a U.S.-approved epinephrine auto-injector

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2018/08/health-minister-announces-access-to-a-us-approved-epinephrine-auto-injector.html>

Interim Order Respecting Epinephrine Auto-Injectors

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/interim-order-epinephrine-auto-injectors.html>

Explanatory Note: Epinephrine

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/explanatory-note-epinephrine.html>

Dear Healthcare Professional Letter

<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2018/67658a-eng.php>

Patient Information — Auvi-Q® (epinephrine injection) Auto-Injector For Allergic Emergencies (Anaphylaxis)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements/auvi-q-patient-information.html>