

INTERNAL MEMO

DATE: April 7, 2017
TO: Elementary and Secondary Administrators
FROM: Dr. Janice Tomlinson, Acting Superintendent of Leadership & Learning: Specialized Services
RE: **Recall of EpiPen and EpiPen Jr auto-injectors**

The following information is on the Health Canada website (www.healthycanadians.gc.ca) regarding recall of two lots of EpiPen and EpiPen Jr auto-injectors. Please provide this information to parents of students who use an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr. In addition, please check the EpiPen and EpiPen Jr that are in your school with reference to this recall.

Pfizer Canada recalls two lots of EpiPen / EpiPen Jr auto-injectors (0.3 mg and 0.15 mg epinephrine) due to possible device failure

Starting date: April 1, 2017
Type of communication: Advisory
Source of recall: Health Canada

Issue

Pfizer Canada, in consultation with Health Canada, is voluntarily recalling one lot of EpiPen auto-injector and one lot of EpiPen Jr. auto-injector. The recalled devices may contain a defective part that may result in the auto-injector failing to activate or requiring increased force to activate.

This recall is being conducted following two confirmed international reports of the device failing to activate. There have been no confirmed reports of device failures involving lots distributed in Canada.

EpiPen/EpiPen Jr. auto-injectors are used to deliver an emergency treatment of adrenaline (epinephrine) to patients who are at risk or have a history of serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis). Failure of the auto-injector to activate may result in patients not receiving the required dose of adrenaline (epinephrine), resulting in the worsening of symptoms of anaphylaxis or anaphylactic reactions, which could be life threatening.

Products affected

- **EpiPen (0.3 mg epinephrine) auto-injector lot 5GU763, expiry date May 2017, 67844 units distributed in Canada**
- **EpiPen Jr (0.15 mg epinephrine) auto-injector lot 5GR765, expiry date March 2017, 39503 units distributed in Canada**

What you should do

- Patients and caregivers should check whether they have the affected device.
- Contact your pharmacy to arrange return of your EpiPen/EpiPen Jr. device and obtain a replacement as soon as possible.
- Pfizer Canada is also advising patients and caregivers to keep the affected EpiPen/EpiPen Jr. auto-injectors until a replacement is obtained.
- In the event that a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) occurs before you can obtain a replacement, use your EpiPen/EpiPen Jr. product as directed by your healthcare provider and then seek emergency medical attention.
- Speak with your healthcare professional if you are concerned about your health.
- Contact Pfizer Canada at 1-866-9Pfizer (1-866-973-4937) or CorporateAffairsCanada@pfizer.com for more information on the recall.
- Report adverse events to health products to Health Canada by calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345, or by reporting online, by mail or by fax.
- Report complaints about health products to Health Canada by calling toll-free at 1-800-267-9675, or complete an online complaint form.