



LIFESAVING SOCIETY®
SOCIÉTÉ DE SAUVETAGE

The Lifeguarding Experts
Les experts en surveillance aquatique

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Safety Standards for Canadian Swimming Pools and Waterfronts Aquatic Facility Standard

Epinephrine Auto-injector Standard

Standard

Every owner or operator shall have a policy and procedure that allows lifeguards to administer an epinephrine auto-injector for the treatment of anaphylaxis.

Definitions

Epinephrine auto-injector: a disposable, pre-filled automatic injection device that administers epinephrine in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

Owner or operator: the owner or the individual appointed by the owner to be responsible for the operation of the swimming pool or waterfront.

Rationale

Epinephrine auto-injectors are used for the emergency management of a person suffering from a potential life threatening allergic reaction. Auto-injectors are commonly carried by individuals with a known allergy.

Epinephrine is a front line medication that can save a life if administered in a timely manner (delaying administration can lead to death) ¹.

All lifeguards are trained in Standard First Aid (SFA) to identify the signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis, and how to assist in the administration of epinephrine auto-injectors where appropriate. ^{2, 3, 4}

In some jurisdictions, auto-injectors are available without a prescription and/or are available in first aid kits.

Implementation

Facility policy and procedures should reflect current practices outlined in the Standard First Aid program and the Lifesaving Society's *Canadian First Aid Manual*.

Training should reinforce facility policy and procedures related to the use of auto-injectors.

Lifeguards should receive training based on facility policy and procedures with available auto-injector training devices.

When administering an auto-injector, lifeguards should follow the manufacturer's instructions for use.

References

- Anaphylaxis Canada (www.anaphylaxis.ca) – Anaphylaxis 101⁽¹⁾
- Lifesaving Society Canadian First Aid Manual p. 45, p.73⁽²⁾
- 2016 Canadian Consensus Guidelines for First Aid and CPR⁽³⁾
- 2015 ILCOR/AHA First Aid Guidelines Part 15, Anaphylaxis⁽⁴⁾

Approval

- Approved by the Lifesaving Society Canada Board of Directors on 18 September 2017.

Disclaimer

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards are developed using Coroners' recommendations, the latest evidence-based research, and reflect the aquatic industry's best practices at the time the publication was approved or revised.

The purpose of these standards is to encourage swimming pool, waterpark and waterfront owners, managers, operators and regulators to adopt these standards in order to prevent drownings in aquatic environments.

Lifesaving Society Canada's National Safety Standards do not replace or supersede local, provincial/territorial or federal legislation or regulations, but they are considered the standard to which aquatic facility operators should work towards in order to enhance safety within their operations and to prevent drowning and aquatic-related injury.