Becketts House

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Ref.GK/SP/39/2017

Dear Head Teacher,

**Re: The provision of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for schools**

We understand that the parents of ……………………………..…….…. have recently been asked by your school to obtain a GP prescription for some extra AAIs (Epipen / Epipen Jnr / Emerade / Jext) for the purpose of being kept at the school. The provision of extra AAIs intended to be kept at a school is not the responsibility of the patient’s GP.

Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups (BHR CCGs) Area Prescribing sub-Committees (APC) have agreed that GP prescribing of AAIs is restricted to a two devices, which are to be carried in person by the patient. This is in line with updated MHRA advice for healthcare professionals on the provision of AAIs*.*

From 1st October 2017, schools in England were allowed to purchase AAI devices without a prescription, for emergency use on children who are at risk of anaphylaxis but whose own device is not available or not working. The Department of Health Guidance on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors in schools -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/645476/Adrenaline_auto_injectors_in_schools.pdf>

For ease of reference it states (page 5):

*From 1 October 2017 the Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 will allow schools to obtain, without a prescription, adrenaline auto-injector (AAI) devices, if they wish, for use in emergencies. This will be for any pupil who holds both medical authorisation and parental consent for an AAI to be administered. The AAI(s) can be used if the pupil’s own prescribed AAI(s) are not immediately available (for example, because they are broken, out-of-date, have misfired or been wrongly administered).*

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*Schools can purchase AAIs from a pharmaceutical supplier, such as a local pharmacy, without a prescription, provided the general advice relating to these transactions are observed: i.e. small quantities on an occasional basis and the school does not intend to profit from it.*

With regulatory changes, allowing schools to purchase extra AAIs, BHR CCGs have reminded its prescribers that provision of extra AAIs for schools is the responsibility of the school, any request to prescribe extra AAIs to keep at the school should be refused. We hope this clarifies the situation.

Yours faithfully,

Gurkirit Kalkat Alex Tran Syed Raza

Dr G Kalkat Dr A Tran Dr S Raza

Prescribing lead Barking Prescribing lead Havering CCG Prescribing lead Redbridge CCG and Dagenham CCG

Co-Chairs, Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge Clinical Commissioning Groups Area Prescribing sub-Committees