

Adrenaline autoinjector (AAI) provision and training among paediatric patients in the UK

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Key message

The survey has identified that, in spite of the MHRA recommendations, prescribers are not consistently prescribing two AAI devices for paediatric patients at risk of anaphylaxis. In addition, despite the wide range of resources available to help patients manage, store and use their AAI devices, prescribers and dispensers are not signposting parents and carers to these resources. Consequently, parents and carers may not be equipped to effectively manage their child's allergy.

Objective

The Anaphylaxis Campaign conducted a patient survey on the quality of allergy care in the UK. The objective was to identify current gaps in the standard of care, with a view to addressing these gaps with enhanced support and information.

Methods

Patients or parents/carers of children who had an episode of anaphylaxis or were deemed at risk were questioned on their experiences of care, including the prescription of AAIs and training on their use. The survey was open for 6 months. The responses from parents and carers (self reported) on behalf of their respective children are presented here.

Conclusions

A substantial proportion of parents and carers of paediatric patients reported that they were not provided with training on AAI use, expiry dates or storage. The lack of provision of trainer devices and signposting to support resources is a concern. Many young patients were not prescribed the correct number of pens as recommended by the MHRA.

Results

Respondents

Of 1217 respondents, 655 were parents/carers responding on behalf of a child aged up to 16 years. There was a good geographic spread across the UK. In total, 96% of children had been prescribed an AAI.

Patient responses to survey

- Just **58%** of children were prescribed two AAIs as recommended by the MHRA, with **18%** prescribed a single AAI and the remainder prescribed more.
- While **85%** agreed they were shown how to use their AAI when first prescribed (**13%** disagreed), just **57%** were given a trainer device (**40%** disagreed).
- Less than half (**47%**) were directed to the company website for instructional videos (**44%** disagreed), and one in 20 were directed to any smartphone app (**83%** disagreed).
- Three-quarters (**75%**) were informed that AAIs have an expiry date (**17%** disagreed), and just **32%** were informed of the expiry alert service (**57%** disagreed).
- Half (**50%**) were told to check that the adrenaline solution in the device was clear (**40%** disagreed).
- A third (**36%**) were instructed on AAI storage (**49%** disagreed).
- A small minority, **6%**, were shown how to use the device when collecting repeat prescriptions (**85%** disagreed).

