Use of Spare Adrenaline Auto-Injectors Policy

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The Stour Academy Trust

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This policy outlines the procedures for the use of 'spare' adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) at Thistle Hill Academy to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors at risk of anaphylaxis. Unforeseen circumstances where an AAI may need to be used include when an individual's prescribed devices are unavailable or not functioning, or in the event of a first anaphylactic episode where there is no assigned AAI.

Availability and Storage of Spare AAIs:

Thistle Hill Academy has purchased spare adrenaline auto-injector devices for emergency use. These spare pens are to be used in the unforeseen event that a person is experiencing anaphylaxis, but their own AAI is not available, out of date, or malfunctioning. Or for those who are at risk of anaphylaxis but do not have their own devices because they either haven't been prescribed any or are unaware of the risk.

- The spare AAIs are stored in an Anaphylaxis Kitt provided by Kitt Medical, clearly labelled as 'Anaphylaxis Kitt'.
- The Kitt is kept in a safe, easily accessible location, known to all staff members. The Kitt is not locked away to ensure swift access in an emergency.
- Thistle Hill Academy holds 4 spare AAIs with 2 x 150mcg dose for children under the age of 6 or <30kg and 2 x 300mcg for anyone over the age of 6 or >30kg. Both doses are stored in a Kitt(s) in the following locations:
    - Main foyer

The Head Teacher retains accountability for the management of the Anaphylaxis Kit

Maintenance and Replacement of Spare AAIs:

The Office Manager supported by the Estates Team is responsible for regularly checking the spare AAIs in the case that the medication is cloudy or discoloured. This will be done on a monthly basis, and replacements will be made as necessary. The Kitt Medical Team supports this process and monitors the expiry dates through functions available on the Kitt Portal.

Administration of Spare AAIs:

All pupils at risk of anaphylaxis should have an Allergy Action Plan that describes exactly what to do and who to contact in the event that they have an allergic reaction. In the event of an anaphylactic emergency, if the individual does not have access to their own AAI, the spare AAI should be used without delay. In addition:

- Emergency services should be called immediately, and it should be stated that anaphylaxis is suspected.
- Follow the advice from emergency services to determine the next steps, which may include the administration of a second injection.
- Stay with the person until medical help arrives.
- Restrict the movement of the person until medical help arrives.

In cases where anaphylaxis is suspected in an undiagnosed individual:

- Emergency services should be called immediately, and it should be stated that anaphylaxis is suspected.
- Follow the advice from emergency services to determine whether the administration of the spare AAI is appropriate.
- Stay with the person until medical help arrives.
- Restrict the movement of the person until medical help arrives.

Legal Framework:

Since 2017, schools have been legally able to directly purchase AAIs from a pharmaceutical supplier without a prescription. Regulation 214(2) of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 specifies that for Prescription Only Medicines (POMs), no person may administer such medication (unless they are the person to whom it is prescribed or an appropriate practitioner). However, Regulation 238 provides an exemption for AAIs, stating that:

- The administration of adrenaline by auto-injection, for the purpose of saving life in an emergency, is exempt from the restrictions in Regulation 214(2). This provision should be reserved for exceptional circumstances that could not have been foreseen.
- The exemption applies specifically to adrenaline 1:1000 (up to 1mg), which is the concentration found in standard auto-injectors used for anaphylaxis.

Staff Training:

The Stour Academy Trust People Services Team are responsible for coordinating allergy and anaphylaxis training for school staff and it is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that the school's anaphylaxis policy is up to date.

- An allergic reaction can occur at any time, so all staff should be trained on what to do in the event of an allergic reaction. All staff members will undergo regular allergy and anaphylaxis awareness training, which includes:
    - Understanding common allergens and triggers of anaphylaxis.
    - Recognising the signs and symptoms of an allergic reaction and anaphylaxis.
    - Administering emergency treatment, including the use of AAIs, in the event of an anaphylactic reaction.

Training Methods:

- Online training will be sent out in Term 1 each year for all staff across the Trust to complete
- Any new staff joining within the school year will also receive Online training
- Additional ad-hoc training sessions where necessary