NHS
Norfolk and Suffolk
Integrated Care Board

Information for Community Pharmacy
Allergy Safety in Schools

The ICB has received queries regarding the new statutory guidance Allergy Safety in Schools, commonly referred to as Benedict's Law.

What is changing?

From September 2026, schools in England must introduce allergy safety measures, including holding a supply of spare adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs) for emergency use.

The Human Medicines (Amendment) Regulations 2017 provide the legal framework that allows schools in England to purchase spare AAIs without a prescription for emergency use.

How will community pharmacies receive requests?

Schools may approach a community pharmacy to purchase their spare AAIs.

The request should be made using a written signed order or requisition, signed by the school principal or headteacher. The order should state:

- the name of the school for which the AAIs are required;
- the purpose for which the AAIs are required;
- the total quantity required; and
- the signature of the principal or headteacher.

The Department of Health guidance states that headed paper is preferable, although this is not a legal requirement.

What should the pharmacy do with the signed order?

When a school presents a signed order, the pharmacy should check that it contains the required information before making the supply.

1. Receive the school's signed order or requisition.
2. Check that it contains the school's name, the purpose of the supply, the quantity required and the principal or headteacher's signature.
3. Confirm that the requested product, strength, and quantity are clear before supply.
4. Supply the AAIs as a private transaction rather than against an NHS prescription. The school is responsible for purchasing the devices.
5. Retain the signed order and make an appropriate record of the supply in accordance with applicable legal, professional, and organisational requirements.

If the signed order is incomplete, unclear or unsigned, the pharmacy should contact the school and obtain a corrected order before making the supply.

What strength or brand should be supplied?

The choice of device should reflect the needs of the school and its pupils. Schools may wish to seek appropriate clinical advice when deciding which devices are suitable.

Schools are advised to consider the AAI brand most commonly prescribed to their pupils to help reduce confusion and support training.

Pharmacy teams should not assume that a request for spare stock relates to an individual child's prescription. The school's emergency stock is separate from AAIs prescribed to individual pupils.

Who pays for the AAIs?

The school is responsible for the cost of its spare AAI devices. The supply is a private transaction, and pharmacies are not required to provide AAIs to schools free of charge.

Key message for community pharmacy

Schools can purchase spare emergency adrenaline auto-injectors directly from a community pharmacy without a prescription. The school should provide an appropriate signed order or requisition from the principal or headteacher. Pharmacy teams should check the order before supply, process the supply as a private transaction and maintain appropriate records.

Further information

- Department for Education: Allergy Safety in Schools
- Department of Health and Social Care: Using emergency adrenaline auto-injectors in schools
- Royal College of Pharmacy: Adrenaline auto-injectors pharmacy guide