

**Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School
327 North Negley Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15206**

Board of Trustees Policy

**SEVERE ALLERGY/EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTOR POLICY
SELF-ADMINISTRATION**

The Board of Trustees (“Board”) of the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (“Charter School”) recognizes that a number of students with severe allergy(ies) experience allergic reactions which require the use of an epinephrine auto-injector to be administered during Charter School hours in order to maintain student health and in the Charter School setting.

Allergies can be described as an increased hypersensitivity to a particular substance. Antigens are substances that can cause an allergic reaction. Common antigens are tree and grass pollens, animal dander, mold spores, bee stings, latex and certain foods. According to the Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network, a food allergy is—an immune system response to a food that the body mistakenly believes is harmful. Although an individual could be allergic to any food, such as fruits, vegetables, and meats, there are eight foods that account for 90% of all food-allergic reactions. These are: milk, egg, peanut, tree nut (walnut, cashew, etc.), fish, shellfish, soy, and wheat.

It is important to recognize the symptoms of an allergic reaction and respond quickly with treatment to prevent a severe reaction from happening. An allergic reaction can involve any or all of the following systems and the symptoms may include:

- Integumentary: Hives, edema, rash, pruritus or eczema flare.
- Digestive: Cramps, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Respiratory: Itchy and watery eyes, rhinitis, sneezing, coughing, itching or swelling of lips, tongue and throat, change in voice, difficulty swallowing, tightness of chest, wheezing, shortness of breath, or repetitive throat clearing.

- Cardiovascular: Reduced blood pressure, increased heart rate, or shock.

- Neurological: Weakness or a feeling of impending doom.
- Anaphylaxis: A severe, potentially life threatening reaction that can be commonly caused by an allergy to food, latex, stinging insects, and medications. Anaphylaxis can involve all the systems.

Definitions:

Epinephrine is the definitive emergency treatment for severe allergic reactions. This medication reverses the allergic reaction, at least temporarily, to provide the life-saving time needed to get further treatment in a medical facility.

EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. shall mean a prescribed device for self- administration of emergency supportive therapy of epinephrine to treat anaphylaxis.

This policy shall apply only to the use of an epinephrine auto-injector necessary to maintain a student in the Charter School and which can be self-administered by the student with necessary documentation provided to the Charter School Nurse by student's healthcare provider and parent(s)/guardian(s) permitting such self-administration.

Delegation of Responsibility:

The Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") shall have authorization to determine procedures for staff development in monitoring students who self-administer equipment for severe allergic reactions and reviewing students' ability to self-administer same.

Criteria:

A student with medically certified severe and possibly life-threatening allergic reaction(s) and of school age may possess an epinephrine auto-injector on their persons, including bookbags and handbags, to perform treatment for an allergic reaction.

A student shall be permitted to use an epinephrine auto-injector in the classroom, in any area of the Charter School or Charter School grounds and at any Charter School-related activity if requested by the parent or guardian.

For the possession and use of an epinephrine auto-injector, a student must demonstrate the capability for self-administration and responsible behavior. The student must verify with the Charter School Nurse his/her ability to administer the medication and that he/she has permission to do so.

The Charter School's decision to allow a student to possess and self-administer epinephrine through an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr. will be based on the maturity of the student, the severity of the allergy, and the likelihood of misuse. In order for a student to be allowed to possess and self-administer allergy medication, the Charter School's policy requires that a student:

- Verbally explain the reason for use of the epinephrine to the Charter School Nurse;
- Identify, to the Charter School Nurse, the signs and symptoms which indicate the need for which the epinephrine is to be used;
- Identify the individual medication(s) by name;
- Identify the effects and the side effects of the medication to the Charter School Nurse;
- Demonstrate to the Charter School doctor or Charter School nurse the ability for self-administration of the epinephrine;
- Behave responsibly when using the epinephrine;
- Identify placement of the EpiPen or EpiPen Jr. to be kept on his/her person at all times;
- Acknowledge the need to notify the Charter School Nurse immediately following each use of the EpiPen or EpiPen Jr.;
- Demonstrate knowledge of how to access assistance for help regarding use of or side effects from use of epinephrine medication(s);
- Notify the Charter School nurse immediately following each use of an EpiPen or EpiPen Jr.;
- Understand and acknowledge the restriction of making the epinephrine auto-injector available to other students.

The student is restricted from making the epinephrine auto-injector available to other students. Permission to self-administer must be in the form of a written statement by a physician/certified healthcare provider indicating:

- The name of the drug;

- The dose, the timing of the dose;
- The diagnosis/reason the medication is required unless the reason should remain confidential; and
- Potential of a serious reaction that may occur in response to the medication.

In addition, the Charter School requires this written request from the student's parent/guardian shall contain statements that:

- The Charter School comply with the orders of the physician/certified healthcare provider;
- The Charter School is relieved of any responsibility for the benefits or consequences of the prescribed medication when parent-authorized;
- The Charter School bears no responsibility for ensuring that the medication is taken;
- Charter School may release information to the student's healthcare provider or emergency care provider and to all Charter School staff who have custodial care of the student and may need the information to maintain the student's health. Such Charter School staff includes the Charter School doctor, Charter School nurse, student's teachers, lunchroom staff, bus driver and any staff at Charter School sponsored activities or field trips.

The Charter School reserves the right to require the physician/certified healthcare provider to provide a statement justifying the continued use of the epinephrine auto-injector beyond a certain time period and may require updated prescriptions and parental approvals on an annual basis.

The student is restricted from making medication or any medical equipment available to other students. The student's privilege to self-administer medication or equipment may be revoked or restricted if the student abuses or ignores the Charter School policies. This policy shall be distributed with the Student Code of Conduct.

TO THE EXTENT THAT ANYTHING IN THIS POLICY COULD BE CONSTRUED TO CONFLICT WITH THE SCHOOL'S CHARTER OR APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS, THE APPLICABLE STATE AND/OR FEDERAL LAWS AND/OR CHARTER CONTROL.

ADOPTED this day _____ of _____, 2015

President

Secretary