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PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
COLLEGE OF PHARMACISTS

Member organization of National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (NAPRA)

The Island Capsule

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The Island Capsule is a publication of the PEI College of Pharmacists and is forwarded to every registrant of the College on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month.

EpiPen® Shortage–Update

Health Canada has published a news [release](#) on August 30, 2018 regarding the status of the EpiPen shortage in Canada. The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, announced that she has signed an Interim Order that will facilitate the import into Canada of the U.S.-approved Auvi-Q epinephrine auto-injectors for a period of two weeks while approval is sought to extend the order for up to one year.

This measure is in response to ongoing shortages of EpiPen (0.3 mg) and EpiPen Jr. (0.15 mg). Auvi-Q, made by Kaléo has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Both EpiPen and Auvi-Q deliver the same labelled dose of epinephrine; however, unlike EpiPen, Auvi-Q has a retractable needle as well as an electronic voice instruction system.

Pharmacists are reminded to:

- Review the AUVI-Q product information with patients or caregivers. (English and French prescribing information, patient information, instructions for use, and trainer instructions are available for download at the following address: www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/announcements.html)
- Distribute Patient Instructions for Use with each dispensed AUVI-Q auto-injector.
- Use their discretion to conserve supply, as AUVI-Q is packaged such that each box contains 2 auto-injectors plus a trainer device (i.e., opening packages and dispensing single auto-injectors as necessary).

- In terms of the National Drug Schedules, the current listing for epinephrine in the NDS would apply to this formulation, just as it did for Allerject. Therefore, Auvi-Q should be considered Schedule II under the NDS.

Information regarding ordering should be directed to McKesson as the Canadian importer for the product.

Message RE: Scabies Outbreak at QEH

As you may know, there is currently an outbreak of scabies at two Health PEI facilities (QEH and Hillsborough Hospital). This communication is to keep all PEI pharmacists informed and to provide information regarding use and supply of permethrin 5% cream.

Containment measures have been implemented at both facilities and include monitoring of new rashes and/or itchy skin of both patients and staff, contact precaution for patients until they are assessed by their health care provider, and when appropriate, treatment for scabies. Memos are being sent out to all PEI primary healthcare providers with information regarding the diagnosis and treatment of classical scabies, the appropriate prophylactic treatment of contacts, as well as information on further lab testing should it be required.

Any confirmed cases of scabies should be treated with permethrin 5% cream, as well as any close contacts. Please see the [British Columbia CDC Information](#) for Health Professionals on Scabies for more information on diagnosis and treatment.

McKesson is currently out of stock of permethrin 5%, however new supply is expected to be available Tuesday, Sept. 4th. The QEH pharmacy currently does have some additional stock and are able to assist community pharmacies with supply over the long weekend should the need arise.

Health PEI Antimicrobial Stewardship Team

Important Dates

PEI Jurisprudence Exam

The PEI College of Pharmacists has posted the jurisprudence exam sittings for 2018. They are as follows:

October 22, 2018 9:30-11:30 am

December 10, 2018 9:30-11:30 am

Additional dates may be added to accommodate pharmacy assistants completing the transition pathway in time for the December 2018 registration deadline.

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