Epinephrine Auto-Injection Training For Health Care Providers Caring For Adolescents With Food Allergies: A Quality Improvement Project
Melissa Boggan, BSN, RN, Judy Ascenzi, DNP, RN, CCRN-K

Background

• Childhood hospitalizations for food allergies tripled between 1990-mid-2000s with more than 40% of children experiencing anaphylaxis
• Fatal mock code exercise prompted need for further education about epinephrine auto-injectors
• Intra-muscular injection of epinephrine is the treatment of choice for anaphylaxis

Aim 1:
To increase health care providers knowledge on the steps in using epinephrine auto-injectors by achieving post-test scores of 80% or higher by end of demonstration.

Aim 2:
To increase health care providers confidence in administering epinephrine during an anaphylactic emergency by increasing Likert Scores to 80% “strongly agree” by end of demonstration.

Aim 3:
To increase confidence in health care providers to be able to teach back the skill of epinephrine injection to adolescents by increasing Likert Scores to 80% “definitely” by end of demonstration.

Methods

Participants: Pediatric inpatient staff caring for adolescents (age 13-21) with food allergies
Intervention: 5-minute video demonstrating correct epinephrine auto-injector technique
Measurement:
• Pre- and post-test injector technique assessed using FAME checklist
• 4-point Likert Scale measuring confidence in administering and teaching

Implications for Practice

• This project has presented the need for education health care providers on epinephrine auto-injector use.
• Successfully demonstrated the efficacy of delivery this education via digital training.
• This intervention cost zero dollars to create and deliver, requires no manual monitoring and can be performed at any time in any place

Acknowledgements

Kim Mudd, MSN, RN

References