



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
Division of Health Professions Licensure  
Board of Registration in Nursing

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December 15, 2009

To: Massachusetts Professional Nursing and Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, NP  
Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Teaching Epinephrine Administration to Unlicensed Personnel

At the December 9, 2009 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board determined that:

Licensed nurses teaching the activity of epinephrine administration to unlicensed persons (UP) who, through their employment, encounter persons who may require emergent administration of epinephrine from a pre-measured device designed for self-administration is an acceptable nursing practice.

The nurse providing the teaching should be comfortable that the setting has appropriate rules and protocols in place. The nurse providing the teaching does not bear on-going accountability or responsibility for the administration of epinephrine once the UP have been trained in an appropriate setting.

The nurse in a management role, as part of the policy development in the specific practice setting, must establish defined, consistent and proven methods of teaching including the measurement of initial and continued competency to specified unlicensed persons.

Protocols must include:

- a method by which the individual who requires the emergent care agrees to performance of the activity by an unlicensed person;
- obtaining an order from a duly authorized prescriber for specific and conditional administration of epinephrine;
- ensuring that UP are evaluated for initial and continued competence;
- ensuring the proper storage and handling of epinephrine;
- training UP to recognize the symptoms of a severe allergic reaction;
- training UP in a defined, consistent and proven method the safe manner to administer epinephrine with a pre-filled, automatic injection device intended for self-administration; and
- method for notification of emergency medical services and other appropriate persons following epinephrine administration.