



Anaphylaxis: University of Edinburgh position on the provision of medication kits.

Following discussion on whether the University should provide anaphylaxis kits throughout its campuses; the University Safety, Health, and Wellbeing Committee (USHAW) agreed with the position taken by the Health and Safety Department, to not provide kits. This position was reached following consultation with Legal Services, Occupational Health, and First Aid as well as reviewing current government advice on the use of adrenaline auto-injectors (AAIs).

Whilst it is recognised that Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening condition, the medication (adrenaline) is designed to be administered through AAIs. There is evidence of increased numbers of students with complex and serious anaphylaxis. Government advice is such that AAIs can, in principle, be used by anyone to save a life. However, there are still considerable risks with misdiagnosis and inappropriate administration, and the risk of accidental self-injection by the individual administering, instead of the individual with anaphylaxis. There is some concern amongst health and safety professionals at other UK universities, about the provision of anaphylaxis kits and the increased risk of misdiagnosis or inappropriate administration, by untrained individuals.

It is important the University take a uniform position following consultation through the USHAW Committee. Staff and students are not obliged to disclose conditions such as anaphylaxis. If they choose to do so, the University first aid trainer can provide a guidance pack, based on the anaphylaxis national charity information <https://www.anaphylaxis.org.uk/>.

Given the size and complexity of campuses and accommodation across the University, it is preferable to rely on individuals carrying and where possible administering their own auto-injectors. These devices are designed to be administered by non-medical persons if there is no first aider available.

Staff and students should be encouraged and supported to disclose anaphylaxis conditions. This will enable guidance to be made available to relevant staff and students on how to recognise the symptoms and manage emergencies. Information and guidance will also be available on the Health and Safety Department website.

Suppliers/providers, of anaphylaxis kits have been in contact with the Health and Safety Department and some School Safety Advisers, they have been advised of the University position and advised to not contact individual SSA's. If you receive correspondence from them, please forward to the health.safety email and please advise any companies that following an organisational review we will not be reviewing/ purchasing these kits at this time; of course this may change in the future but is our considered view for now.



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

Health & Safety Department

Document version

Version number	Summary of change	Date and by whom
V1.0	New document	April 2025, Fiona Calvin

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact The Health and Safety Department on health.safety@ed.ac.uk or call (0131) 651 4255