



# Clinical Practice Procedures: Drug administration/ EpiPen®/EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector

<b>Policy code</b>	CPP_DFA_EAA_1117
<b>Date</b>	November, 2017
<b>Purpose</b>	To ensure a consistent procedural approach for the EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector.
<b>Scope</b>	Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.
<b>Health care setting</b>	Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.
<b>Population</b>	Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.
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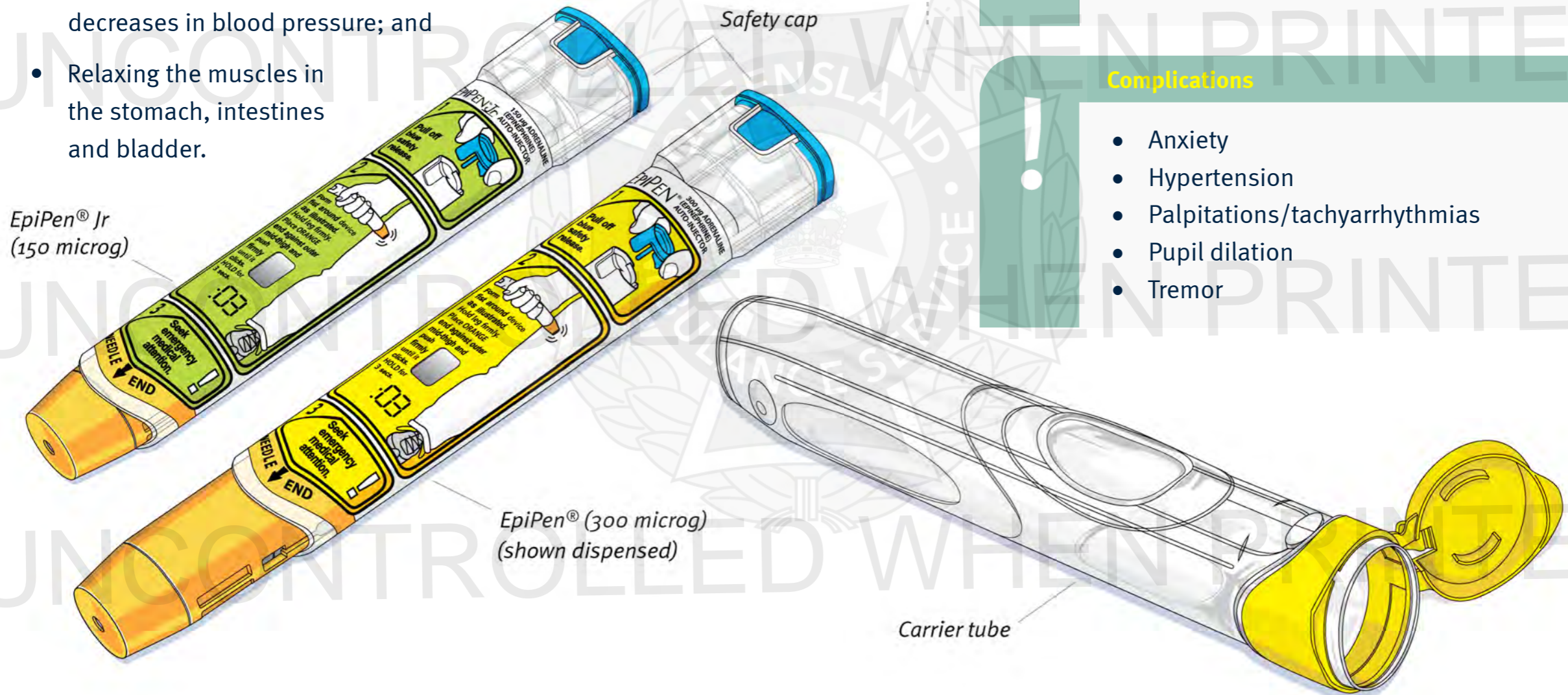
# EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector

November, 2017

The EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector is a disposable, pre-filled automatic injection device capable of administering adrenaline in the event of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction.

The emergency administration of adrenaline (epinephrine) to patients with anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction will assist with:<sup>[1]</sup>

- Relaxing the muscles in the airways making breathing easier;
- Reversing rapid and dangerous decreases in blood pressure; and
- Relaxing the muscles in the stomach, intestines and bladder.



## Indications

- Anaphylaxis **OR** severe allergic reaction

## Contraindications

- Nil

## Complications

- Anxiety
- Hypertension
- Palpitations/tachyarrhythmias
- Pupil dilation
- Tremor

## Procedure – EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector

1. Remove the EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector from the carrier tube. Inspect and confirm it is within the expiry date and the solution is clear – if discoloured, discard and use an alternative device.

Solution viewer

2. Hold firmly with orange tip pointing downwards.

3. Remove blue safety cap by pulling straight (do not bend or twist).

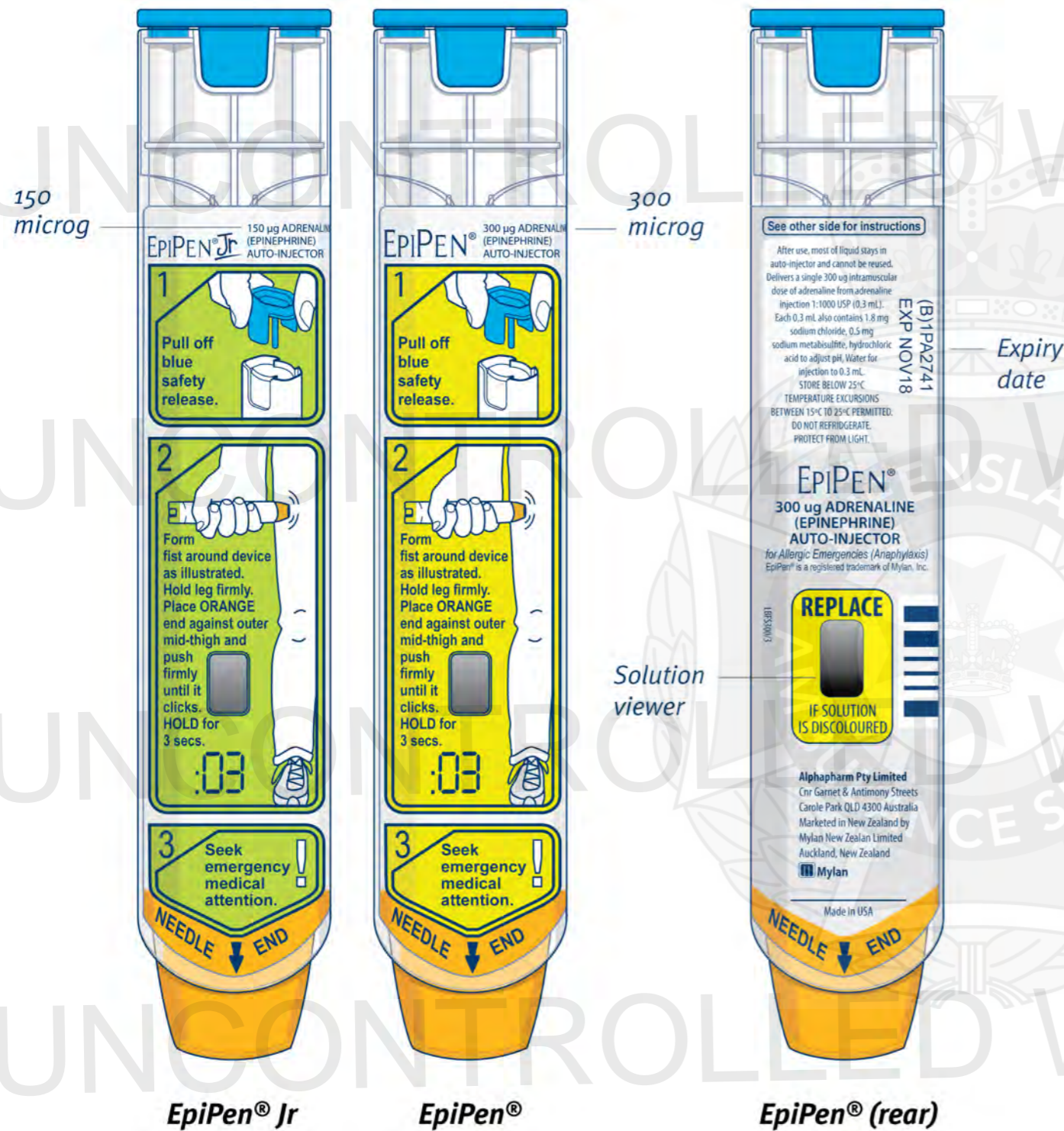
4. Push the orange tip firmly into the mid-outer thigh until you hear a click.

5. Hold on the patient's thigh for 3 seconds.

6. Remove from patient's thigh – the orange needle cover will automatically extend to cover the injection needle.

7. Dispose of auto-injector immediately into sharps container.

## Procedure – EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector



### + Additional information

- The potential for exposure to blood and body fluids during this procedure is **HIGH**. All precautions that serve to minimise risk to the clinician and patient are to be applied.
- EpiPen<sup>®</sup> and EpiPen Jr<sup>®</sup> auto-injectors have recently been updated with new instructions on the label (reduced injection time from 10 to 3 seconds). All EpiPen<sup>®</sup> and EpiPen Jr<sup>®</sup> auto-injectors are to be held in place for 3 seconds regardless of the instructions.
- If required, the EpiPen<sup>®</sup> / EpiPen<sup>®</sup> Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector may be injected through the patients clothing.

### QAS supplies the following adrenaline (epinephrine)

Adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector	Recommended age group	Administered dosage
EpiPen <sup>®</sup>	≥ 6 years	300 microg
EpiPen <sup>®</sup> Jr	< 6 years	150 microg