



Community Pharmacist Support for Alberta's Schools and Students

Names of other project participants. Please use a separate line for each name:

Names of pharmacists interacting with the school

Summary of proposed project including background, hypothesis, objectives, methods, subjects/patients, evaluation of success of project and achievement of outcomes. Examples of outcomes to be measured include impact on health outcomes and health care utilization, impacts on patient safety and quality of care.

Background

The Legislative Assembly of Alberta recently released the *Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act*. This Act requires all schools in Alberta to be capable of providing care to students who experience an anaphylactic allergic reaction. Additionally, all schools are required to ensure that a minimum of one epinephrine auto-injector is maintained at the school.

Pharmacists would benefit from grant funds to ensure that they can serve the needs of Alberta students and school staff. Furthermore, the grant will provide pharmacists with the opportunity to engage with Alberta schools beyond anaphylaxis education and become a valued resource for the community and engage in other public health activities, such as education on head lice, smoking/vaping awareness, sun safety, etc.

Hypothesis

Pharmacist-led anaphylaxis education, training and support to school board representatives and school employees will help schools to achieve the requirements set out in the *Protection of Students with Life-Threatening Allergies Act*. Through direct community engagement, pharmacists will build a relationship with the school, discuss anaphylaxis prevention and preparedness, provide access to epinephrine auto-injectors and can serve as a valuable resource for other health issues.

Objectives

Develop relationships with Alberta schools, staff and students to promote the Alberta pharmacists as trustworthy and valuable health care providers.

Provide access to medications and other resources, such as epinephrine auto-injectors, to schools.

Ensure school representative receives proper education on recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis, correct methods for administration of an epinephrine auto-injector and provide advice and suggestions to improve the school's policy for child safety with respect to an anaphylactic reaction.

Promote the partnering of Alberta pharmacists and schools to improve student health.



Subjects/Patients

Authorized individuals representing their respective school boards who receive the epinephrine auto-injectors, and school employees who attend the education session provided by the pharmacist.

Methods

An educational video will be available for pharmacists to view. This video will serve as a refresher for pharmacists, reminding them of proper education points regarding recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis. This will ensure that the school representatives and school employees are given consistent information. Pharmacists will be provided with a list of additional resources for themselves and the schools.

The designated school representative will present the *Designation of Authorized School/School Authority Epinephrine Auto-Injector Purchaser Form* to the pharmacist for fulfillment. To satisfy the request, the pharmacist will provide the required amount of epinephrine auto-injectors to the representative. The number and type of epinephrine auto-injectors provided will be based on the pharmacist's clinical judgement. Pharmacists are encouraged to only order supply once they receive a request from a school board to avoid stockpiling product. Upon distribution, the pharmacist will educate the school board representative on how to recognize an anaphylactic reaction, proper use of epinephrine auto-injectors, and the appropriate next steps following the administration of epinephrine to a student. The pharmacist and school board representative will arrange for the pharmacist to deliver an educational session to the school employees.

The pharmacist will submit an online application for the grant, including confirmation that they received the request form from a school board and fulfilled the order.

Evaluation

Objectives will be assessed through a satisfaction survey distributed to school staff who take part in the education sessions

- Satisfaction with pharmacist relationship
- Satisfaction with education received regarding recognizing and responding to anaphylaxis
- Satisfaction with availability of pharmacist for follow-up communication

The pharmacist who conducted the training session is also asked to complete a follow-up survey regarding delivery of the service

- Ability to provide ongoing support to the school, including other health issues
- Feedback received from the school following engagement
- Confidence in ability to provide training, education and support to school staff

Describe the unique features about this project.



Pharmacists are in the best position to be providing anaphylaxis education and resources to the schools, therefore protecting the safety of students. The project will allow pharmacists to be compensated for supporting the school as a valuable community resource related to anaphylaxis and other identified school concerns.

This project works towards maximizing the roles that pharmacist provides and, by partnering with and supporting schools for the betterment of Alberta students, will increase the value of pharmacists in their community. Building relationships with schools will provide pharmacists with the opportunity to present other educational sessions to students in the future. By increasing the ability of pharmacists to promote public health, school staff and students will view pharmacists in a positive manner.

Describe how the proposed project aligns with the intended theme(s) of pharmacy practice innovation award in supporting pharmacist led, team-based care projects to provide services for Albertans in the community.

This project supports community pharmacist-led projects as it helps to reinforce the message that pharmacists are a reliable resource of information for all members of the community. Through the service provided by community pharmacists, school staff will gain a better understanding of how to recognize and respond to anaphylaxis reactions. The project also supports team-based care, as pharmacists and school staff will be working together to ensure the safety of students with life-threatening allergies in schools.

Provide a brief overview of why project participants are best suited to undertake this project (i.e. relevant skills and experience)

Alberta pharmacists are best suited to undertake this project because they are trustworthy, accessible health care providers who are knowledgeable on the topic. Pharmacists are trained in how to respond to anaphylaxis and have experience with anaphylaxis and epinephrine auto-injector training.

By taking this proactive approach, pharmacists are helping to ensure that Alberta children are protected from life-threatening anaphylactic reactions while in school.

Anticipated timeline for completion of the project (identify stages and length of time). Please Use a separate line for each stage.

Stage 1: Preparation

- Pharmacist contacted by school representative to obtain an epinephrine auto-injector
- Pharmacist establishes relationship with school representative
- School representative completes epinephrine auto-injector request form and presents to the pharmacy
- Pharmacist applies for the *Community Pharmacist Support for Alberta's Schools and Students* grant
- Pharmacist ensures appropriate training tools/kit and resources are available



Stage 2: Implementation

- Pharmacist assess competency for anaphylaxis recognition and response; views educational video if necessary
- Pharmacist orders appropriate auto-injector(s)
 - o For schools with students < 30 kg and students > 30 kg, both strengths of epinephrine auto-injector should be provided
- Pharmacist will:
 - o Confirm that the individual is authorized to purchase an epinephrine auto-injector by the school board for a specific school
- Pharmacist must follow Standards of Practice when providing epinephrine auto-injectors to a school representative.
- The pharmacist will serve as an ongoing resource for the school to meet their anaphylactic resource needs for a period of 1 year. Additionally, the pharmacist will be available for other educational opportunities as needed.
- At the pharmacy, the pharmacist will educate the school representative on how to recognize an anaphylactic reaction, how to respond to an anaphylactic reaction and necessary follow-up care.
 - o The pharmacist will also review the products' expiry date(s) with the school representative and discuss when the epinephrine auto-injectors need to be replaced.
- The pharmacist will offer to provide training for recognition and response to anaphylaxis to school employees:
 - o Training will be repeated as deemed necessary by the school board and pharmacist, at least one per school year
 - o Additional follow-up with the school representative will be completed as required
- The pharmacist will inform the representative that they can serve as an ongoing resource for the school and provide support and education as needed.
- The school representative will also be informed that they will be asked to complete a follow-up survey
- Pharmacist will submit a grant report outlining the service they provided

Stage 3: Follow-up

- Following training, the pharmacist will distribute link to follow-up surveys to the school employees who took part in the provided training session
- Survey results will be submitted directly to RxA

Will ethics approval be needed?

No

<http://www.aihealthsolutions.ca/arecci/screening/441055/6c9ee59ca39a59a1b94d6200abe7c8c8>

Score: 2 (minimal risk)



Project leader uses ARECCI Ethics Guidelines for Quality Improvement and Evaluation Projects

If ethics approval is needed, how will it be obtained?

Ethics approval is not required

Anticipated total project budget:

\$400 per school that the service is provided for*

*Grant funds are **NOT** to be used to cover EpiPen® costs, upcharges or dispensing fees

How will the potential funds be allocated? Please use a separate line for each allocation (i.e. salaries and benefits, materials and supplies, computer/system, travel, advertising)

Funds will be used to compensate the pharmacist's time. Below is a summary of the recommended pharmacist activities for completing the project:

- Stage 1:
 - o Self-assessment of competency for providing anaphylaxis recognition and response training
 - o Ordering training kits; becoming familiar with training kit
 - o Educate pharmacy staff on procedures of distributing epinephrine auto-injectors
- Stage 2:
 - o Collecting form from school board representative and providing in-store training
 - o Order minimum requirement of epinephrine auto-injectors for the school
 - o Provide follow-up education to school staff regarding anaphylaxis recognition and response
 - Repeat training sessions deemed necessary by school board and pharmacist (at least once annually)
 - o Follow-up with school board representative as required
 - o Distribution of surveys to school employees and participating pharmacist
- Stage 3:
 - o Continue to engage with the school to provide ongoing education and resources to the school staff and students