



Fact Sheet

Office of Environmental Health and Safety

EpiPen Management and Disposal

Epinephrine, also known as adrenaline is primarily used as a relaxer of bronchial smooth muscles. It is often prescribed to people with severe allergies who are at risk of anaphylactic shock. EpiPen is the common form of epinephrine auto-injector. In some types of EpiPens there is an active ingredient, epinephrine which is listed as an “acute hazardous waste”. Even at low doses, improper or unknowing use or exposure can cause death or irreversible illness. As such there are special requirements for handling and disposing of some EpiPens and unopened syringes.

This Fact Sheet is designed to assist the University Health Services (UHS) staff understand the EpiPen regulations issued by the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection.

Used EpiPens or epinephrine syringes with normal residue should be disposed of as medical waste in standard sharps containers. Unopened syringes or EpiPens that are still fit for their intended purpose must be handled differently. If for example, you have expired EpiPens or are doing a clean out of medications, take the following steps:

1. Check the manufacturer’s information to see if the epinephrine is in a solution as a salt e.g. epinephrine hydrochloride. If it is in the form of a salt, it can be disposed of in the standard sharps container. You are done.
2. If you find that the EpiPen is not in a salt solution then it is considered a hazardous waste. It should be placed in the specially designated sharps container labeled “Unused or Expired EpiPens Hazardous Waste Toxic”. This container is located on the top shelf in the office of the Director of General Medicine.
3. When the EpiPen Hazardous Waste container is $\frac{3}{4}$ full contact the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS). The container will be picked up and disposed of using a hazardous waste manifest and a licensed waste management firm.

Finally if a container of epinephrine breaks, drops or ruptures; the material must be managed as a hazardous waste. Immediately call OEHS for assistance with the spill clean-up and disposal of the material.

Contact the UMB’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) if you need assistance or have questions.

OEHS (617) 287-5445
Email: umbehs@umb.edu