BLS PROVIDER ASSISTING WITH EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTOR

INDICATIONS:

- Signs and symptoms of a severe allergic reaction (e.g. rash, urticaria, facial/neck/tongue swelling, wheezing, dyspnea, hypotension).

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Chest pain
- Hypertension
- Medication does not belong to patient or has expired

EQUIPMENT:

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for potential blood exposure
- Appropriate sharps disposal container
- Patient's own prescribed epinephrine auto-injector

PROCEDURE:

1. Use PPE for blood exposure
2. Examine patient's own epinephrine auto-injector to ensure that:
    - The auto-injector is prescribed for the patient
    - The auto-injector medication has not expired and the visible medication is clear
    - The auto-injector is the correct dosage for the patient
        - 0.3 mg epinephrine for adult patients
        - 0.15mg epinephrine for pediatric patients <12 years-old
3. Remove the safety cap from the auto-injector
4. Place the tip of the auto-injector on the mid-anterior lateral area of the patient's thigh, midway between the groin area and the knee (may place over clothing)
5. Push the auto-injector against the thigh until you hear an audible click
6. Hold the auto-injector in place until all of the medication is administered (about 10 seconds)
7. Dispose of auto-injector in an appropriate sharps disposal container
8. Reassess patient for improvement of symptoms
9. Reassess vital signs

DOCUMENTATION:

- Time of assistance with administration of epinephrine auto injector
- Dosage administered
- Patient's response to treatment and repeat vital signs

NOTES:

- Any patient receiving epinephrine by auto-injector pen must be upgraded to ALS response
- Assisted epinephrine auto-injector administration may be done while awaiting incoming ALS response
- Also refer to treatment guideline M-15