State Advocacy Engagement on Epinephrine Autoinjector Costs
Guidance for AAP Chapters

The AAP is concerned about the rising cost of epinephrine autoinjectors. A resolution adopted at the 2016 Annual Leadership Forum (MyAAP login required) called on the AAP to open a dialogue with the manufacturers of epinephrine autoinjectors about this matter and the Academy has been pursuing this on a number of fronts. Additional efforts at the state level will augment these efforts.

In addition to the AAP statement and ALF resolution, the American Medical Association, patients and families, and members of Congress have called for action on the matter. There are also a number of steps that your chapter can take at the state level to address this issue.

While the manufacturer has responded to growing frustration over the rising cost of epinephrine autoinjectors, prescription drug cost control, the market dynamics involved in setting drug prices, and rising cost sharing requirements on insureds (particularly those in high deductible plans) remains a complex issue.

State Advocacy Engagement Options

- Connect with family advocates as partners early on in your efforts. Additionally, schools, school nurses, teachers, principals, and others in education also have experience in advocating on this issue, and a vested interest in controlling costs of epinephrine autoinjectors. News outlets have reported that these costs have been borne unequally by schools, and not just by individual consumers.
- As with so much of your work, collaborating with other medical professional groups will be valuable in this effort—your state medical society, state academy of family medicine, internal medicine, allergy, emergency medicine, etc.
- Work with your partners to identify a state legislator or legislators who are willing to champion this issue. Are there legislators who have children or grandchildren—or the lawmakers themselves who use epinephrine autoinjectors and have been affected by the price increase?
- Meet with legislators to discuss the issue, share patient stories, and identify possible solutions:
  - Ask your lawmakers to consider introducing a bill that requires a review of the issue. Often called a “legislative study report”, this requires legislative staff or state agency officials to investigate an issue and report back to the legislature. A similar bill, SB 33, was introduced in Connecticut in early 2016.
  - The broader issue of control of prescription drug costs has been a hot topic in states over the past year. A number of them have acted to place caps on copays for prescription drugs, or to require greater levels of price transparency. Vermont enacted SB 216 earlier this year, which requires greater price transparency for all prescription drugs.
  - Consider working with your state attorneys general and insurance commissioners to inquire into prescription drug cost hikes and the effects of high deductible plans on the affordability of epinephrine autoinjectors.

We expect to see states address this during the 2017 legislative sessions. State attorneys general antitrust and fraud actions have also been initiated in a number of states and are likely to expand.

Additional Resources

- States and the Rising Cost of Pharmaceuticals: A Call to Action | National Academy for State Health Policy
- National Conference of State Legislatures | Pharmaceutical Costs and Access
- Consumers Union | Promoting Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs