

1 **MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY HOUSE OF DELEGATES**
2
3

4 Item #: 2
5 Code: Resolution I-16 A-101
6 Title: Epinephrine Auto-Injectors in Schools and Individualized
7 Health Care Plans
8 Sponsors: B. Dale Magee, MD
9 Lloyd Fisher, MD
10 MA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
11 DeWayne Pursley, MD, President
12
13 Referred to: Reference Committee A
14 Kevin O'Callaghan, MD, Chair
15

16 Whereas, The MMS strategic priorities include improving health care quality, access,
17 and equity for patients, while delivering cost-effective care and promoting a sound public
18 health system; and
19

20 Whereas, Currently, the MMS has no policy on epinephrine auto-injectors in schools;
21 and
22

23 Whereas, Approximately 1 in 20 children in public schools have medical conditions that
24 may require the emergency administration of an epinephrine auto-injector¹; and
25

26 Whereas, Most current school policies require parents to purchase an auto-injector of
27 epinephrine to be stored at school along with an individualized health care plan from
28 their health care provider; and
29

30 Whereas, This leads to the stockpiling of hundreds of identical, single-use doses,
31 differing only in the ID label for the student in each school of a district, making retrieval in
32 an emergency more complicated and time consuming than necessary; and
33

34 Whereas, Most school districts in Massachusetts report that either no units or only 1 unit
35 being used throughout the district in a year, and only 6 of nearly 400 school districts
36 reported more than 5 administrations throughout the district in the school year ^{2,3,4}; and
37

38 Whereas, Each district must maintain a supply of auto-injector epinephrine doses in
39 each school to accommodate the 20% or more of instances of epinephrine
40 administration in districts that occur in students that have not previously been identified
41 as needing this medication^{3,4}; and

1 Mass DPH Managing Life Threatening Food Allergies in Schools, 2002.
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/cnp/allergy.pdf>.

2 Mass DPH Epinephrine Reporting Regulation, 2016. <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/school/epi-administration-reporting.pdf>.

3 Data Health Brief: Epinephrine Administration in Schools, 2012.
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/school/epi-data-health-brief-12.pdf>.

4 Data Health Brief: Epinephrine Administration in Schools, 2011.
<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/school/epi-data-health-brief-11.pdf>.

1 Whereas, At least one school district has adopted as its policy the option of parents and
2 students relying on the use of a school-supplied epinephrine auto-injector⁵; and
3

4 Whereas, The cost to purchase epinephrine auto-injectors is a barrier to many families
5 and a significant cost to the health care system in this state; therefore, be it
6

- 7 **1. RESOLVED, That the MMS supports schools using their own emergency**
8 **supply of epinephrine auto-injectors instead of requiring parents to purchase**
9 **individually labeled epinephrine auto-injectors for each child and that each**
10 **student and employee who has life-threatening allergies be required to provide**
11 **their designated school with an individualized health care plan; and, be it**
12 **further (HP)**
13
- 14 **2. RESOLVED, That the MMS encourage school districts to adopt as policy use of**
15 **their own emergency supply of epinephrine auto-injectors instead of requiring**
16 **parents to purchase individually labeled epinephrine auto-injectors for each**
17 **child and that each student and employee who has life-threatening allergies**
18 **continue to be required to provide their designated school with an**
19 **individualized health care plan; and, be it further (D)**
20
- 21 **3. RESOLVED, That the MMS communicate its policy regarding support for**
22 **school-supplied epinephrine auto-injectors and the requirement for**
23 **individualized health care plans for both students and employees to**
24 **appropriate Massachusetts organizations, including the Massachusetts**
25 **Association of School Committees, the Massachusetts Association of School**
26 **Superintendents, and the Massachusetts School Nurse Association. (D)**
27

28 Fiscal Note: No Significant Impact
29 (Out-of-Pocket Expenses)

30
31 FTE: Existing Staff
32 (Staff Effort to Complete Project)

⁵ Shrewsbury Public School Policy 643 (5).
<http://schools.shrewsburyma.gov/sc/documents/643kc.pdf>.

Additional Tips

Develop Political Backing

If you are interested in submitting a resolution, there is tremendous value in presenting your idea to others first. [Your district](#) is an excellent place to start and your district can even consider co-sponsoring your resolution. (Sponsorship needs to be confirmed in time for the resolution deadline.)

Sponsors are strongly encouraged to share their draft with the relevant MMS committee (for example, Public Health or Legislation) for feedback prior to submitting the resolution for the deadline. This input can often improve or fine-tune the focus of a resolution, build consensus, and can enhance successful passage of your resolution. A list of MMS committees and staff liaisons can be found at www.massmed.org/committees.

Submitting Your Resolution:

Visit the [resolution submittal page](#), use supplied template and ensure you've provided all required information before submission. Submit final resolution to resolutions@mms.org.

Staff Review Process:

MMS governance staff review resolution submissions for format, clarity, fiscal impact, etc. MMS Legal staff and relevant departmental staff also review resolutions for any legal/antitrust concerns, facts, and accuracy of overall content. Governance staff will contact you via e-mail to discuss any follow-up questions and/or suggested edits.

If you have questions regarding writing a resolution, please contact: Annemarie Tucker, Manager, Governance Policy Administration, or Lacy Heffel, Governance Meetings & Services Project Manager, at resolutions@mms.org.