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FAAIS Patient Advocacy:

How to Save Money When Purchasing Your Epinephrine Auto-injector

We all have been hearing about the sky-rocketing cost of epinephrine devices, which is significantly limiting access to this life-saving medication. Unfortunately, there are no acceptable alternatives to epinephrine for life-threatening allergies. If you or your child/dependent has been prescribed an epinephrine device that is simply unaffordable, here are some tips to help you find the most feasible option.

1. Consider alternative brands. There are currently three epinephrine auto-injectors available by prescription in the United States: Adrenaclick®, EpiPen® and the generic epinephrine auto-injector. If one brand is not well covered by your insurance carrier, or is too expensive without insurance, ask your healthcare practitioner to prescribe an alternative brand or generic. *A word of caution-- each device is different and each brand has its own unique way of activating the medication; so be sure you are familiar with the proper injection technique of your chosen device.* The manufacturers offer helpful training videos on their website to assist you. They can be found here:

- Adrenaclick® www.adrenaclick.com
- EpiPen® www.epipen.com
- Generic auto-injector www.epinephrineautoinject.com

2. Take advantage of coupons. If you have commercial insurance, or no insurance at all, be sure to look for manufacturer coupons, which can offer steep discounts at the pharmacy counter. These coupons can be found on the manufacturers' websites or at your doctor's office. Unfortunately, government-based health coverage plans (Medicaid, Medicare, TRICARE, etc...) do not honor manufacturer coupons.

3. Talk with your health insurance carrier. When cost is an issue, it is always a good idea to ask your insurance carrier if there are less expensive alternatives. Some insurance plans will have all three brands on their formulary but only one brand may be adequately covered by them.

4. Shop around. Prices for epinephrine auto-injectors can vary widely between pharmacies. Price comparison websites and mobile applications make it easy to find nearby pharmacies offering the best prices for epinephrine devices. These sites are particularly helpful for patients who do not have insurance, but can also be very beneficial for those with high deductible drug insurance plans. There are several pharmacy price comparison websites available. Here are just two to get you started: www.goodrx.com and www.blinkhealth.com.

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