

Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society

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To Emergency Department Leadership and Personnel:

- Studies show that many patients suffering from anaphylaxis are discharged from emergency departments without a prescription for an epinephrine auto-injector or a referral to an Allergy/Immunology specialist.

The Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society (FAAIS) wishes to make Emergency Physicians and other emergency department (ED) providers in the State of Florida aware of the recommendations of a recently published article - *Emergency department diagnosis and treatment of anaphylaxis: a practice parameter.*¹ This document was "a joint effort between emergency physicians, who are often on the front line in the management of anaphylaxis, and allergists-immunologists, who have a vested interest in how such patients are managed."

We wish to highlight two particular summary statements from the publication:

#18: *Prescribe auto-injectable epinephrine for patients who have experienced an anaphylactic reaction and provide patients with an action plan instructing them on how and when to administer epinephrine.*

Especially in the case of foods and insect stings, the patients are at risk for encountering the allergen that triggered the anaphylactic reaction that was treated in the ED.

#19: *Instruct patients who have experienced anaphylaxis when discharged from the ED to see an allergist-immunologist in a timely fashion.*

The specific cause of anaphylaxis is frequently unknown at the time of discharge from the ED. To that point, Allergy/Immunology specialists are specifically trained to help determine the cause of the event, as well as teach patients avoidance measures and the appropriate use of auto-injectable epinephrine. In addition, specific immunotherapy is available for insect sting hypersensitivity which can significantly decrease the risk for repeated reactions from insects such as imported fire ants and bees.

This communication is in line with our FAAIS mission, "to promote the highest quality, evidence-based care for those Floridians suffering from allergic and immunologic disease"

A list of qualified Allergy/Immunology specialists is available at www.faaais.org.

Sincerely,

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