

Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society

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A Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society Position Statement regarding:

ESCALATING COST OF EPINEPHRINE AUTO-INJECTORS AND IMPACT ON PATIENT ACCESS TO EPINEPHRINE

Epinephrine is the first line treatment for anaphylaxis and is the only treatment capable of stopping and reversing an anaphylactic reaction. Any delay or failure to administer epinephrine may result in more severe symptoms and a decreased chance of survival.

Numerous news media outlets have reported the cost of the most widely prescribed epinephrine device has increased by about 500% over the last several years. The Florida Allergy, Asthma & Immunology Society (FAAIS) has serious concerns about the recent price increase for this life-saving medication and the financial impact that it is having on patients and their families. FAAIS' foremost concern is that the inflated price will directly prohibit patient access to this critical medication. Those at greatest risk for losing access to epinephrine because of rising costs are: patients without prescription drug coverage, those with high deductible health insurance plans, and patients with government funded plans, which do not accept discounts or coupons and require the patient to shoulder a portion of the medication cost.

FAAIS' position on this crucial issue is categorically aligned with that of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, who have also voiced the same concern and support congressional inquiry into this matter. In the face of sky-rocketing costs of epinephrine auto-injectors, manufacturers must find meaningful ways to safeguard patient access to this life saving medicine, for which there are no acceptable alternatives.

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