



Issue: Pre-filled Emergency Drugs (Minijets)

Raised by: Lee Lanyon, RAN, Batchelor Health Centre.

Background: Proposal that pre-filled Adrenaline and Naloxone (Minijets) be included in the standard emergency drugs kits, to expedite care to the client, and to eliminate OH&S risk associated with drawing up with needles during an emergency.

Discussion: The emergency drug kits implicated in this referral include the Emergency Outreach Drugs Box, the Obstetric Drug Box and the Anaphylaxis Kit (See Section 13 of the RHB Atlas). These kits are standardised emergency equipment in all RHB Health Centres.

In a general sense, the benefits of Minijet presentation of emergency drugs are recognised as being preferable in an emergency setting for the obvious reasons of their readiness for use and reduced risk of needlestick injury. However, there are a number of factors to be considered in determining suitability for use, including PBS availability / cost, storage and transportability, and the potential alternate requirements for administering each drug, level of usage, and requirement for urgency. Best Practice Group have reviewed all the presentations that are available in Australia, of Naloxone and Adrenaline, against the above factors. Combinations of drug presentation (e.g. ratio of minijets to ampoules) used by other emergency services were also noted.

Recommendations of the review are noted at 'Outcome', below.

Additionally, the potential for other emergency drugs in the standard kits that might preferably be presented as minijets was also explored (where availability of minijets presentation is available). There were no other recommendations arising from this investigation; however it is noted that Amiodarone Minijet might potentially be a suitable prospect. At this point Amiodarone is not a part of the standard list, but is anticipated to be substituted for Lignocaine shortly in keeping with Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines. This decision is referred to the Remote Health Pharmacy Committee for a decision.

Consultation: Kieran Behan (Pharmacist, ASH), Peter Barrett (Pharmacist, Soul Pattinson), Peter Hatswell (Pharmacist, Priceline Pharmacy), Wei Yap (Pharmacist, Tennant Ck Pharmacy), RFDS Alice Springs; AirMed (Top End), Andrew White (Remote Paediatrician).

References: Section 13, RHB Atlas; Schedule Of Pharmaceutical Benefits For Approved Pharmacists And Medical Practitioners - Operative From 1 December 2006;

Outcome: **Anaphylaxis Kit:** remains unchanged
Obstetric Drugs Kit: change Naloxone presentation to 1 x Minijet (800mcg / 2ml)
Emergency Outreach Drug Box: change Adrenaline to 1 ml amps x 4 and Minijet x 1

Action: Amend Atlas and drug kit contents lists; distribute laminated revised contents lists to all Health Centres.

Health Centre Managers to ensure the content changes occur on-site & communicate changes to all clinical staff.