

	<p>Scouts Australia NSW  <b>LEADER NEWS - ON THE WEB</b>          Members Support &amp; Child Protection Team  <b>OCTOBER 2010</b></p>	<p>PO Box 125          Lidcombe          Phone: 97359000          Fx: 97359001</p>
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## **SPARE 'EPIPENS' SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED IN SCOUT FIRST AID KITS**

**(Those trained and authorised to administer an 'Epipen', and those for whom it's prescribed, are likely to carry their own.)**

### **WHY?**

After careful consideration of the legal implications, the educational authorities insist the 'Epipen' only be administered by someone who has special training and who has been provided with details, from the family, and are familiar with the patient's 'Action Plan' that has been specially designed, for the patient, by their consulting physician.

Scouts have the same Duty Of Care as the educational authorities (in protecting its teachers and youth to protect its Leaders from any potential legal cases and ensuring the health and well being of youth members.

We place no restriction on Leaders with independent legally recognised formal medical qualifications such as medical practitioners and paramedics.

**This doesn't mean that a Leader or other responsible person, faced with a life threatening situation, shouldn't administer an 'Epipen' to a person, at risk, and who has their own 'Epipen'.**

Under the Government's PBS scheme the 'Epipen' is prescribed by a Specialist after consideration of all the risks and interactions for each patient.

While there are no absolute contraindications to the use of adrenaline in a life-threatening situation, the inappropriate use of EpiPens can seriously aggravate a person's other medical conditions (e.g. Cardiac, diabetes) and can often counteract other medication that they are taking.

There are many drugs that could cause adverse reactions if an 'Epipen' (epinephrine) injection was administered.

There are no absolute contraindications to the use of 'epinephrine in a life-threatening situation where the 'Epipen' was prescribed for, or in the possession of, the person at risk.

'Epipen' prescriptions are limited in the number of repeats allowed.

### **ALSO:**

'Epipens' have a 12 months life expectancy. This is however drastically reduced when exposed to light and heat, such as being kept in a tent or hot hall.

'Epipens, not prescribed under the PBS by a Specialist can cost as much as \$130.

**IF YOU FEEL YOU CANNOT DEAL WITH A MEDICAL PROBLEM  
OR BELIEVE IT IS A LIFE THREATENING SITUATION  
DO NOT HESITATE TO GET HELP OR  
TELEPHONE 000, AND CONTACT THE PARENTS.**