

# Important information about the current EpiPen® supply shortage



## What Cigna is doing to help

### About the shortage

Over the past several months, there have been reports of shortages throughout the country of brand name EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr.®, as well as their authorized generics (Epinephrine Injection, USP Auto-injector). And the need for these medications has increased over the past month as families have been preparing to send their children back to school.

It's important to know that because of the EpiPen shortage, there may be some shortages throughout the country of two other epinephrine products: brand name AUVI-Q® and the authorized generic for Adrenaclick® (Epinephrine Injection, USP Auto-injector, which is made by Impax Laboratories). *Shortages of specific epinephrine products vary by area and pharmacy.*

Both Mylan (the maker of EpiPen and its authorized generic) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have provided updates and guidance to the public. To help manage the shortage, the FDA has extended the expiration dates on specific lots of brand name EpiPen and its authorized generic by four months. *This extended expiration date doesn't apply to brand EpiPen Jr. or its authorized generic.*

Also, a new generic version of EpiPen was approved by the FDA in August, so it may become available at pharmacies in the near future.

### What EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. are used to treat

EpiPen and EpiPen Jr. are prescription medications used to treat severe allergic reactions. During an allergic reaction, the epinephrine in EpiPen constricts blood vessels to increase blood pressure, relaxes smooth muscles in the lungs to reduce wheezing and improve breathing, stimulates the heart (increases heart rate) and works to reduce hives and swelling that may occur around the face and lips.

### What Cigna is doing to help

Until the shortage of certain epinephrine products ends, here are some things Cigna is doing to help make sure Cigna pharmacy customers have timely access to coverage for more epinephrine options:<sup>1</sup>

- › If your pharmacy doesn't have generic versions of covered epinephrine products in stock, we're allowing pharmacists to get from Cigna a coverage exception for brand name epinephrine medications that aren't currently covered by many pharmacy plans. As is already the case today, your doctor can also ask Cigna to approve a coverage exception for brand name epinephrine products your plan doesn't cover if pharmacies in your area don't have generic versions in stock.

For example, if your pharmacy plan administered by Cigna doesn't cover brand name EpiPen, EpiPen Jr., and/or Auvi-Q (without getting a coverage exception), we'll approve coverage for a fill of the medication.

- › We've let the pharmacies in our network know about this approval process. So, using a network pharmacy will help make sure you don't have any issues receiving coverage for your epinephrine prescription because of the supply shortage. You should check with your pharmacy to see if they have epinephrine products in stock. If you have any problems at the pharmacy, please contact Cigna.
- › As long as the shortage lasts, Cigna will continue to work with in-network pharmacies and/or doctors to make sure you have timely access to coverage for brand name epinephrine products your plan doesn't cover if the generic versions aren't available at the pharmacy.

We're working closely with the manufacturers so we have the latest information about the availability of epinephrine auto-injector supplies at the pharmacy. We'll continue to provide updates as more information becomes available.



**We're here if you need us**

If you're a Cigna customer and have a question about your medication coverage or benefits, please call the number on the back of your Cigna ID card. We're available anytime, 24/7/365.

If you have questions about how this shortage affects your health and/or treatment, please call your doctor's office.

If you're having trouble finding a pharmacy that has EpiPen in stock, you can contact Mylan at 800.796.9526. They're available Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-7:00 pm EST and Saturday-Sunday, 11:00 am-4:00 pm EST.

**Together, all the way.®**



1. As always, medication coverage is subject to the terms of your benefit plan, including, but not limited to, your continued eligibility under the benefit plan.

**Para obtener ayuda en español llame al número en su tarjeta de Cigna.**

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