

THIS IS NOT ABOUT BUYING SPARE EPIPENS.

It is about implementing a whole-school allergy management system.

BENEDICT'S LAW IS A WHOLE-SCHOOL MANAGEMENT PROCESS



Allergy management should become part of the culture of the school – not simply a medical process.

Think about allergy awareness in exactly the same way you think about Safeguarding, Fire Safety and First Aid.

LEADERSHIP

- ☐ Appoint an Allergy Lead (preferably SLT)
- ☐ Governors receive an implementation report
- ☐ Allergy management included within safeguarding oversight
- ☐ Allergy risks added to the School Risk Register
- ☐ Allergy response included within the Critical Incident Plan

POLICIES

- ☐ New Whole School Allergy Policy adopted
- ☐ Policy communicated to parents
- ☐ Policy shared with staff
- ☐ Policy shared with governors
- ☐ Procedures extended to:
 - Breakfast Club
 - After School Club
 - Holiday Club
 - Sports Providers
 - PTA
 - Contractors
 - Regular Visitors
 - Lettings
 - Wraparound Care

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE

Every child (and member of staff where appropriate) with a diagnosed allergy should have:

- ☐ Individual Allergy Action Plan
- ☐ Emergency contacts
- ☐ Medication consent
- ☐ Medication available
- ☐ Medication expiry dates monitored
- ☐ Annual review process

EMERGENCY MEDICATION

Schools should have:

- ☐ Spare adrenaline auto-injectors
- ☐ Correct doses
- ☐ Clearly labelled emergency kits
- ☐ Accessible within five minutes
- ☐ Not locked away
- ☐ Monthly expiry checks
- ☐ Staff know locations

Remember...

An adrenaline pen sitting in a cupboard is NOT a compliant allergy management system.

STAFF TRAINING

Every member of staff should understand:

- Allergy awareness
- Recognising anaphylaxis
- How to administer adrenaline
- Emergency procedures
- Individual allergy plans
- Their responsibilities

Include:

- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ Teaching Assistants
- ✓ Office Staff
- ✓ Lunchtime Supervisors
- ✓ Catering Staff
- ✓ Site Staff
- ✓ Volunteers
- ✓ Supply Staff
- ✓ Trip Leaders
- ✓ Sports Coaches
- ✓ Wraparound Care Staff

OPERATIONS

Allergy awareness should be embedded into:

- ☐ Catering
- ☐ Packed lunches
- ☐ Food technology
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Art
- ☐ School trips
- ☐ Residential visits
- ☐ Sports events
- ☐ Reward systems
- ☐ Birthday celebrations
- ☐ Visitors
- ☐ Contractors
- ☐ Educational visits
- ☐ Lettings

RECORDING

Schools should record:

- ☐ Allergic reactions
- ☐ Near misses
- ☐ Lessons learned
- ☐ Medication use
- ☐ Staff training
- ☐ Policy reviews

COMMUNICATION

This is not just for parents.

Schools should communicate allergy procedures with:

- ☐ Pupils
- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Governors
- ☐ Parents
- ☐ Catering providers
- ☐ Clubs
- ☐ Contractors
- ☐ Volunteers
- ☐ Visitors

THE CULTURE CHANGE

Schools should stop asking:

"Where do we keep the spare EpiPen?"

Instead ask:

"How do we ensure everyone in our school community understands allergy awareness and knows what to do in an emergency?"

That is the fundamental shift Benedict's Law introduces. Allergy management should become part of the culture of the school – not simply a medical process.

QUESTIONS EVERY HEADTEACHER SHOULD BE ABLE TO ANSWER

- ☐ Who is your Allergy Lead?
- ☐ When were staff last trained?
- ☐ How quickly can an adrenaline pen reach a child?
- ☐ Are emergency pens accessible within five minutes?
- ☐ How are near misses reviewed?
- ☐ How do you communicate allergy risks to visitors?
- ☐ How are governors assured that systems are effective?
- ☐ How do you monitor expiry dates?
- ☐ How do you ensure wraparound care follows the same procedures?
- ☐ How are school trips managed?

If the answer to any of these questions is "I'm not sure", there is work to do before September.