Subject: Anaphylaxis kit medications

Introduction

The practice standards of NHIA represent a consensus of professional judgment, expert opinion, and documented evidence. They provide guidance and direction to NHIA members and other audiences who affect the home infusion industry, and the patients served. Their use may help to comply with federal and state laws and regulations, meet accreditation requirements, and improve patient care. They are written to establish reasonable goals, to be progressive and challenging, yet attainable as best practices in applicable home or alternate site settings. They should not be viewed as NHIA requirements. The use of NHIA's practice standards by members and other practitioners should be assessed and adapted based on independent judgment.

Purpose

The purpose of anaphylaxis kit medication selection is to respond to an adverse event and stabilize the patient's situation until emergency services can be received. Following physician prescription orders, the Pharmacist and Nurse are responsible for participating in the selection of medications for administration in the event of an anaphylactic reaction in a patient infusing medication at home. Organizations should reference NHIA standards for anaphylaxis kits and develop internal standard operating procedures (SOP) for determining when an anaphylaxis kit should be sent using applicable laws, regulations, and accreditation standards. SOPs should be individualized based on clinical judgment, the patients served, and the medications administered. NHIA has developed guidance to help clinicians assess situations and determine what medications are recommended to include in an anaphylaxis kit.

Practice Standard Development Procedure

An area of practice was identified where information and direction are necessary to promote general standards and quality. The topic of appropriate selection of anaphylaxis kit medications has generated a need among practitioners for authoritative advice. There was sufficient experience upon which to base a statement or standard, and it was relevant to the practice of a significant portion of NHIA's members. The NHIA Quality and Standards Committee, comprised of home infusion professionals, performed a comprehensive review of available evidence. Committee members who are experienced clinical and research experts collaborated on the topic, reviewing industry trends and other data sources such as membership, community, best practices, industry research, published literature, or other practice guidelines. A draft practice standard was developed and reviewed by the committee members, and revisions to the draft were incorporated based on consensus. A formal draft of the practice standard will be presented for public comment. At the close of the comment period, the committee will review the commentary and proposed revisions and make recommendations prior to being finalized.

Target Audience

The target audience includes clinicians, regulatory agencies, reimbursement professionals, and industry stakeholders.

Proposed

Practice Standard for Anaphylaxis Kit Medication Selection

Medications and supplies that are **strongly recommended** to be included in the anaphylaxis kit that should be available in the home, and expiration dates should be checked before administration.

1. Epinephrine for injection in a dosage form appropriate for the situation:
    - Epinephrine injectable autoinjector[1-8,10-12]
    - Epinephrine injectable vial 1 mg/mL[1-8,10-12]
2. Sodium chloride 0.9% bag 500 mL[2,4,8,10-12]

Supplies (in sufficient quantity) used to administer:

Syringe 1cc
Needle 18G 1-1/2in 5Mic
Needle 23G 1in
Needle 25G 5/8in
IV Administration Set(s)
Alcohol Prep Pad LG 2-Ply
IV Cath 24G x 0.75in
IV Start Kit

Medications and supplies that should be considered for inclusion in the anaphylaxis kit that should be available in the home, and expiration dates should be checked before administration.

1. Diphenhydramine in a dosage form appropriate for the situation:
    - Diphenhydramine injectable vial 50 mg[1,2,4,5,8-12]
    - Diphenhydramine oral solution 25 mg[1,2,4,5,8-12]

Proposed

Comments/Contact: NHIA welcomes feedback and suggestions for content to incorporate into future revisions and editions. Contact: standards@nhia.org

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