



# Clinical Practice Procedures: Drug administration/ EpiPen®/EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Policy code</b>          | CPP_DFA_EAA_1117                                                                                    |
| <b>Date</b>                 | November, 2017                                                                                      |
| <b>Purpose</b>              | To ensure a consistent procedural approach for the EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector.   |
| <b>Scope</b>                | Applies to Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) clinical staff.                                       |
| <b>Health care setting</b>  | Pre-hospital assessment and treatment.                                                              |
| <b>Population</b>           | Applies to all ages unless stated otherwise.                                                        |
| <b>Source of funding</b>    | Internal – 100%                                                                                     |
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| <b>Review date</b>          | November, 2020                                                                                      |
| <b>Information security</b> | UNCLASSIFIED – Queensland Government Information Security Classification Framework.                 |
| <b>URL</b>                  | <a href="https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html">https://ambulance.qld.gov.au/clinical.html</a> |

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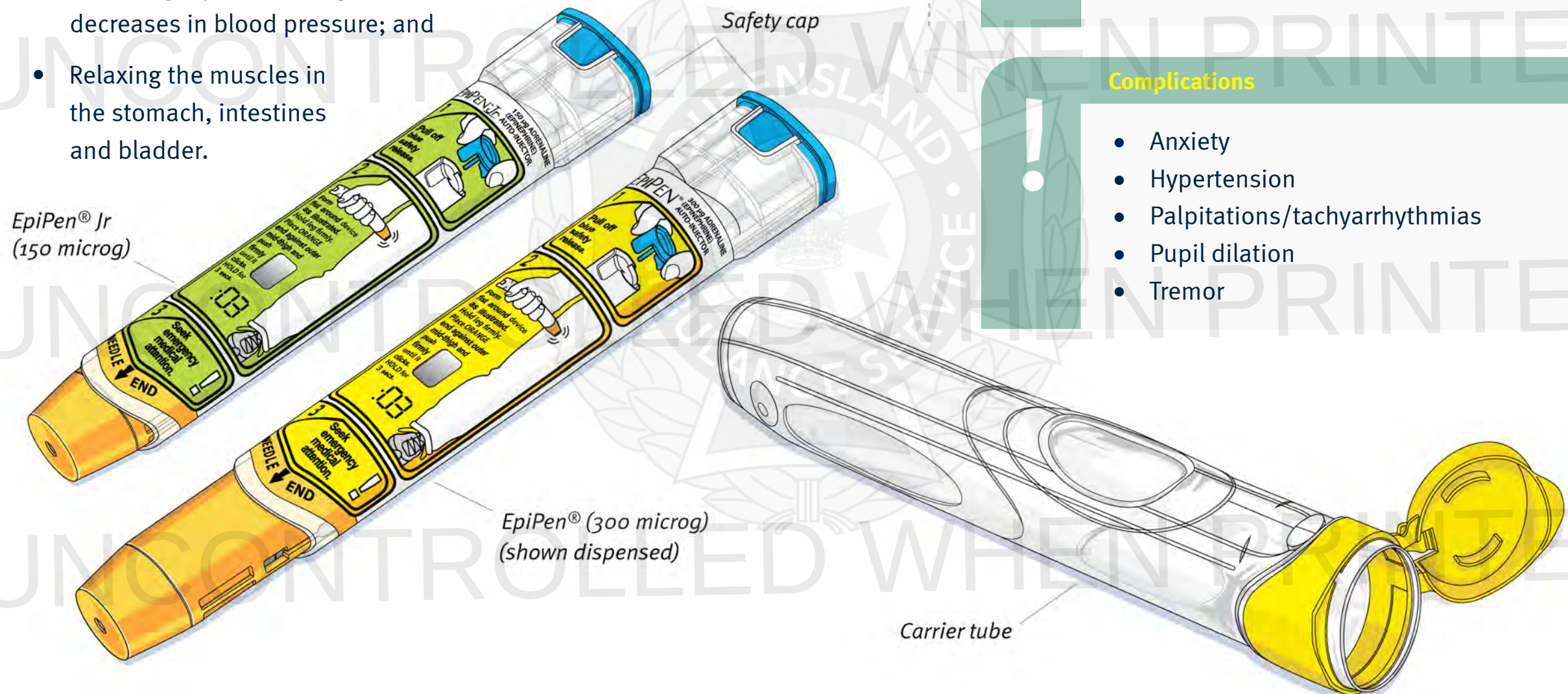
# EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline auto-injector

November, 2017

The EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector is a disposable, pre-filled automatic injection device capable of administering adrenaline in the event of anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction.

The emergency administration of adrenaline (epinephrine) to patients with anaphylaxis or severe allergic reaction will assist with:<sup>[1]</sup>

- Relaxing the muscles in the airways making breathing easier;
- Reversing rapid and dangerous decreases in blood pressure; and
- Relaxing the muscles in the stomach, intestines and bladder.



## Indications

- Anaphylaxis **OR** severe allergic reaction

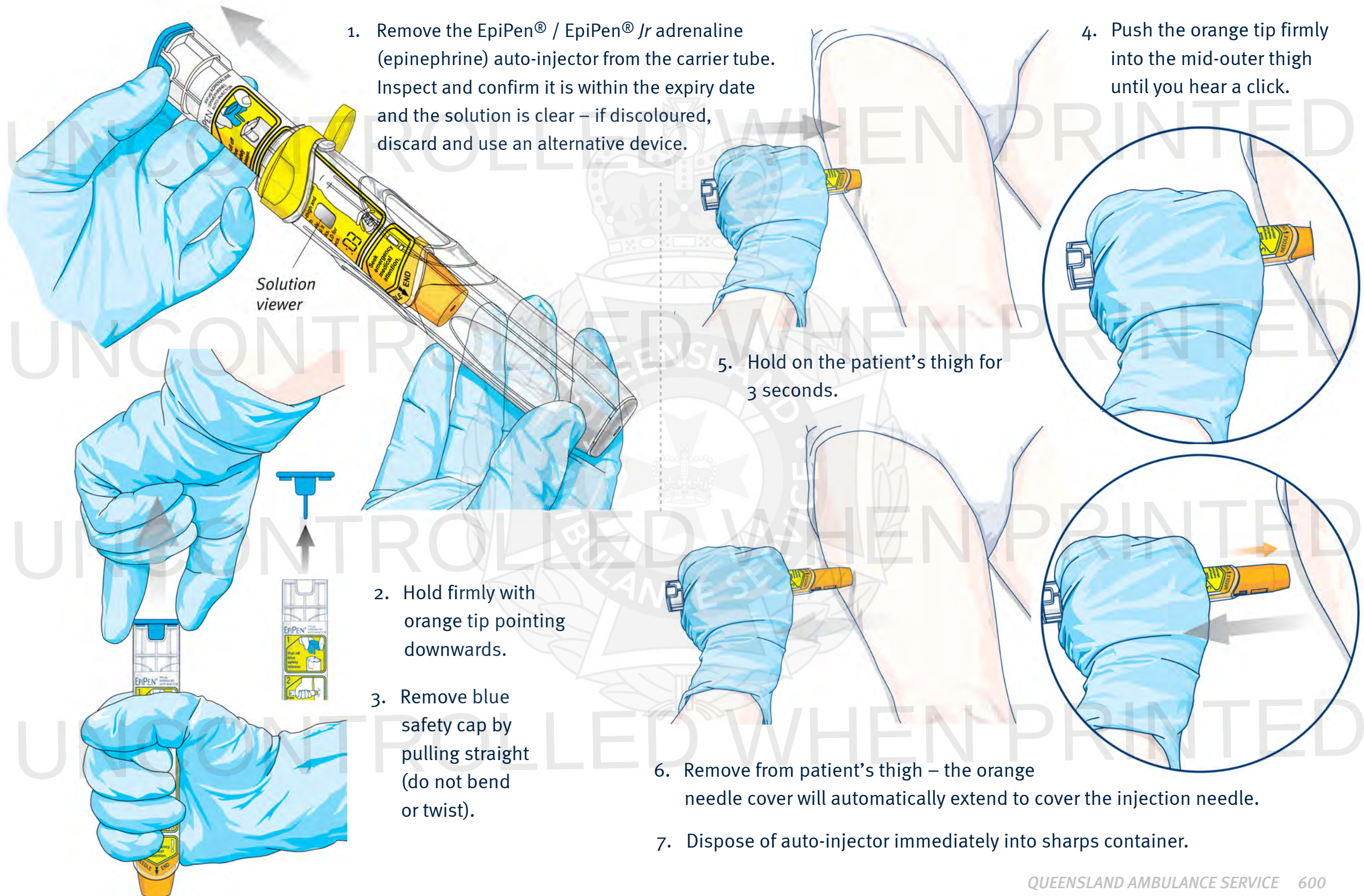
## Contraindications

- Nil

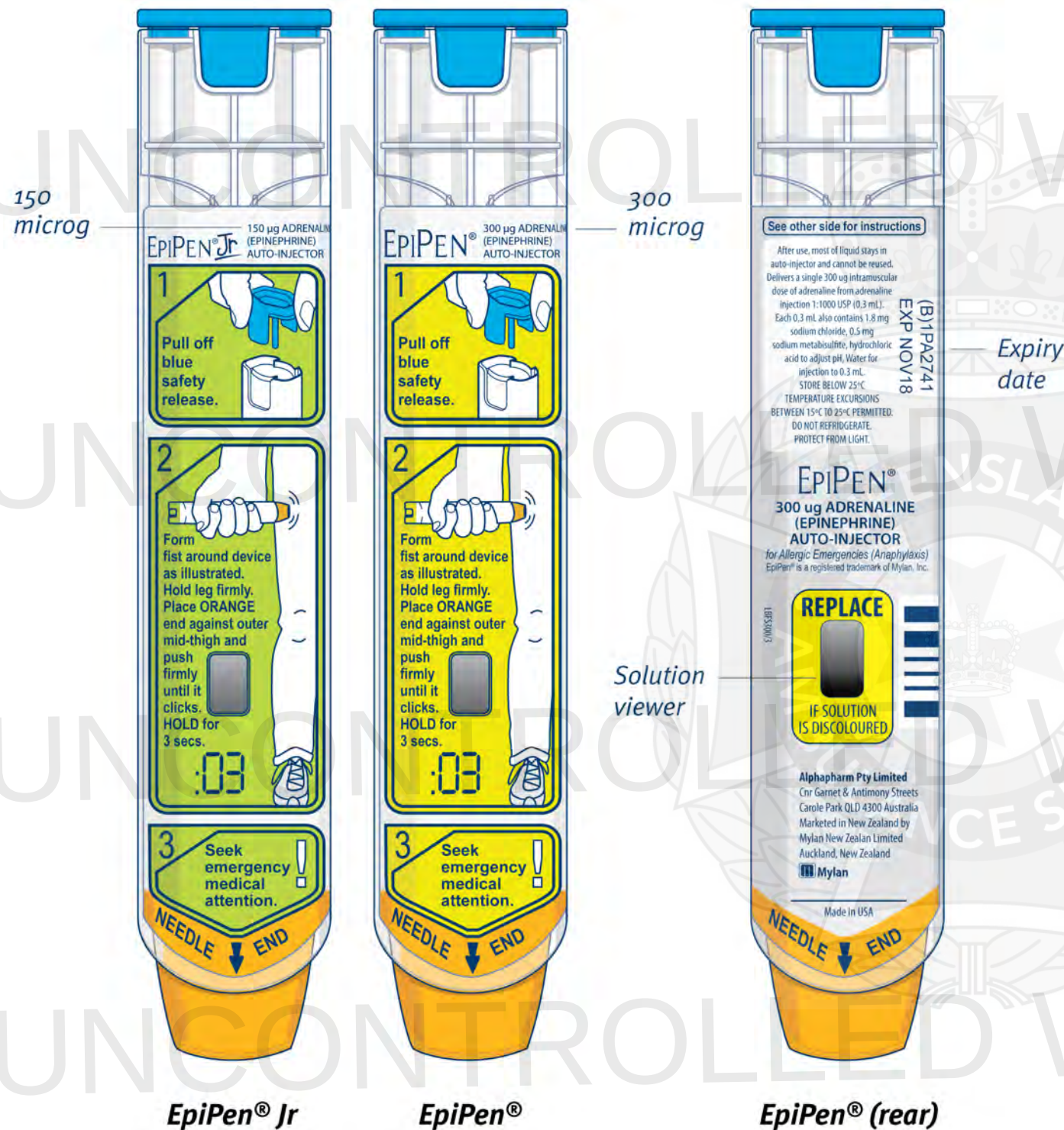
## Complications

- Anxiety
- Hypertension
- Palpitations/tachyarrhythmias
- Pupil dilation
- Tremor

## Procedure – EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector



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### + Additional information

- The potential for exposure to blood and body fluids during this procedure is **HIGH**. All precautions that serve to minimise risk to the clinician and patient are to be applied.
- EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr® auto-injectors have recently been updated with new instructions on the label (reduced injection time from 10 to 3 seconds). All EpiPen® and EpiPen Jr® auto-injectors are to be held in place for 3 seconds regardless of the instructions.
- If required, the EpiPen® / EpiPen® Jr adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector may be injected through the patient's clothing.

QAS supplies the following adrenaline (epinephrine)

| Adrenaline (epinephrine) auto-injector | Recommended age group | Administered dosage |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| EpiPen®                                | ≥ 6 years             | 300 microg          |
| EpiPen® Jr                             | < 6 years             | 150 microg          |