

I am writing as a mother, pediatrician and school medical advisor. I am astounded by the State of CT lack of understanding of best practice in regard to epinephrine usage for life threatening allergic reactions. First, I cannot understand why glycogen storage diseases are at all linked to this issue, the two are unrelated illnesses, but that is a topic for another time. Second, to have any option for a family to opt out of a lifesaving medication for a known or previously unknown allergen is, to me, negligent and ridiculous. It would be on the level of allowing families to opt out of the Heimlich maneuver if their child was choking, or to opt out of using an AED/defibrillator if the child suffered a cardiac event during gym class. It is negligent, pure and simple. Families may not fully understand the ramifications of what they are opting out of. School districts nationwide are being sued (rightfully so!) for lack of timely administration of this medication. It goes against all legal and moral obligations that our school nurses and medical personnel are held to perform. It is directly against the licensing of our school nurses/physicians to knowingly withhold this medication. Public arenas are seeking to have epinephrine available as a life-saving medical option in the same way that AED/Defibrillators are available. Unless a child has a very specific DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) order that specifically dictates that personnel are not allowed to use epinephrine, any and all children/people should have access to this potentially life-saving medication.

Thank you.

I would be happy to discuss this further and offer any other clarification that you'd need in revisiting this issue to keep our children safe at school.

Shannon Martinello, MD, FAAP

smartinello@sbcglobal.net

203 397-1243 work

203 494-1449 cell