

Development and implementation of an epinephrine auto-injector pilot program in the City of Hamilton

Progress Report

July 21, 2015

Objectives of this pilot study are to:

- To better understand how “stock” EAI (eg, EpiPen, Allerject) can be best implemented in food service outlets/restaurants
- To develop a plan and implement a pilot study that will provide EAI access to trained security guards and senior restaurant management staff in up to 3 Mall settings in Hamilton, Ontario

PHASE 1: PRE-IMPLEMENTATION CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEYS

1. Highlights of SURVEY of food-allergic consumers: COMPLETED

- A total of 1524 responses (Target sample 323)
 - 47% from Ontario (34 responses from Hamilton)
 - 21% Western Canada including Yukon/NWT
 - 7% Eastern Canada including Quebec
 - 25% no response
- 17% dine out once per week
- 43% dine out once or twice per month
- 31% experienced allergic reaction while dining out
- 6% received assistance from food-service staff
- 78% choose specific restaurants because of their allergen policy and availability of ingredient list
- 78% would feel more comfortable while dining out if staff had food allergy training
- 45% would feel more comfortable while dining out if stock epi was on premises

2. SURVEY of restaurants personnel: IN PROGRESS

- Target sample 196 respondents and in-progress with Restaurants Canada

PHASE 2: DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

3. Central management team:

- Susan Wasserman, MD – McMaster University
- Ernie Avilla – McMaster University
- Brent Browett – City of Hamilton
- Ninh Tran, MD – City of Hamilton
- Laurie Harada – Anaphylaxis Canada
- Marilyn Allen – Anaphylaxis Canada
- Marty Schure – Rotary Club
- Frank Stechey – Rotary Club

4. Program funding:

- City of Hamilton
- AllerGen NCE for knowledge translation and sustainability study
- EAIs: Provided In-Kind from the *Makers* of EAIs

5. Study participant recruitment

- Lloyd D Jackson Square (Yale Properties) agreement executed
- Tim Horton’s Jackson Square agreement executed
- Anchor Bar Jackson Square agreement pending final signatures

6. Education and Training

- To date the following have undergone training
 - 25 Lloyd D Jackson Square Security Guards
 - 4 staff from Tim Horton's Jackson Square (Preliminary)
 - 1 staff from the Anchor Bar Jackson Square (Preliminary)
 - **100%** felt confident in their ability to use an epinephrine auto-injector and found training very effective

PHASE 3: IMPLEMENTATION OF EAI's

7. Mall Setting: Jackson Square Food courts and other public spaces

- Started program September 2014
- Trained security personnel carry the EAI
- Site specific emergency plan developed and implemented
- Critical incident reporting plan developed and implemented
- Security staff completes a report and submits online to the McMaster research team every 2 weeks. There have been 26 reports submitted to date. The feedback collected to date:
 - Security was dispatched once to address a customer's questions about their food allergy.
 - The EAI was taken out of its emergency toolkit 3 times by the security guards during a shift change. Some prefer keeping the cases on their belts and just exchanging the EAI's.
 - 1 Critical incident report completed June 8, 2015 - A woman had an allergic reaction. She self-injected with her own EAI and was observed by security until EMS arrived to transport her to hospital
- The project has not incurred additional operational costs
- On average, 15 minutes of time is spend on activities related to the Epinephrine Auto-Injector project; mainly due to shift changes; exchanging of EAI's and completing research report

8. Stand-alone restaurants setting: Tim Horton's & The Anchor Bar, Jackson Square

- April 2015 initiated process to become pilot participants
- Orientated senior restaurant management who will be later training other staff members
- EAI's accessible in secured location behind the counter and a back-up in first aid kit
- Site specific emergency plan developed
- In process of finalizing critical incident reporting plan

RATIONALE FOR EXTENSION OF STUDY

- Stand-alone restaurants recruited late and require additional time to collect meaningful data
- Goal to recruit one other mall in Hamilton to participate in the study, with the assistance of City of Hamilton representatives (Councillor Lloyd Ferguson/ Brent Browett).
- Additional funding received from AllerGen NCE to study knowledge translation and sustainability factors. This will require additional time to collect data in order to:
 - Gain a more in-depth understanding of the factors that influence program uptake and explore knowledge user perspectives through in-depth one-on-one interview
 - Understand how to sustain and scale-up the program beyond the pilot study