



### Advisory 19-03 Syringe Epinephrine Update

To: All EMS Agencies/Providers using the Check and Inject “Epi-Safe” Syringe

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P, FACEP, FAEMS *J. Cushman*  
Regional Medical Director

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Previously, you received a communication from Curaplex (Bound Tree) regarding the recall of the “Check and Inject” syringe. The recall is based not on any defect in the contents of the kit, but the fact that the “Epi-Safe” Syringe and the directions provided in the kit for its use, instruct the administration of a 0.15 mg dose of epinephrine to children under 30 kg (66 lbs) that are experiencing anaphylaxis. This is the SAME dose provided by a pediatric epi-auto injector (Epi-Pen Jr™). The FDA approved dosage of 1:1,000 epinephrine for children is 0.01 mg/kg, so the administration of 0.15 mg is an “overdose” according to the FDA for patients less than 15 kg and is considered an “off-label” indication. This is why the syringe has been recalled.

Protocol indicates that for adults you give 0.3 mg, for children less than 30 kg (66 lbs) you give 0.15 mg. This has been the protocol dose for as long as I can remember, and has been done as an “off label” indication for decades. In fact, consensus guidelines indicate that 0.15 mg auto injectors are acceptable in patients less than 15 kg and much of our pediatric dosing is done off-label. It is also highly unlikely that an IM dose of 0.15 mg in a child in anaphylaxis would cause harm. I cannot find any literature to indicate it has. Lastly, computation and administration of more precise weight-based doses of epinephrine for children under 15 kg is not within the scope of practice nor is there a protocol dose provided for the EMT. Thus again, the benefit/risk ratio favors benefit for a less than 15 kg child receiving more than 0.01 mg/kg but less than 0.15 mg total dose.

Some agencies are continuing to use the Epi-Safe syringe with my full support to give the protocol dose of epinephrine. However, given the unfortunate recall, it is critical to train personnel on how to draw up 0.15 mg or 0.3 mg in a 1 ml graduated syringe – which admittedly increases potential dosing errors for the reasons the Epi-Safe syringe was designed. Accordingly, the Division of Prehospital Medicine has created an online training module located through the Cypherworx learning management system (<https://collabornation.net/login/urdpm>). Login, click Course Catalog and complete “Syringe Epinephrine Update – Using a Graduated Syringe”. Registration instructions are attached if you have not yet set up an account.

Training on the use of the graduated syringe is required for any agency moving to that device, and should be accompanied by a hands-on, supervised demonstration of technique as the risk of dosing error is increased in the graduated syringe.

With questions, do not hesitate to contact your Agency Medical Director or the Division of Prehospital Medicine at the MLREMS Program Agency.

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**web** www.mlrems.org  
**phone** (585) 463-2900  
**fax** (585) 473-3516

**office**  
44 Celebration Drive, Suite 2100  
Rochester, NY 14620

**mailing**  
601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655  
Rochester, NY 14642

# Cypherworx Registration Instructions - MLREMS

Everyone will be required to register and create an account with Cypherworx before you are able to begin any of the training modules, specifically the Collaborative Protocol Training.

1. Start by navigating to the following webpage: <https://collabornation.net/login/urdpm>
2. You should be directed to the page shown below. Please complete the information in the red box as a first time user of the system. Once complete, press the 'Create Account' button at the bottom of the page.

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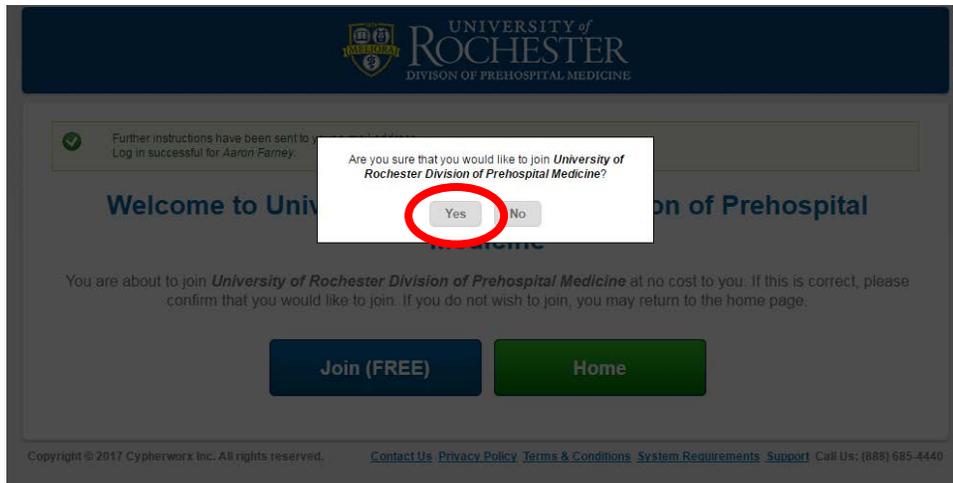
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